

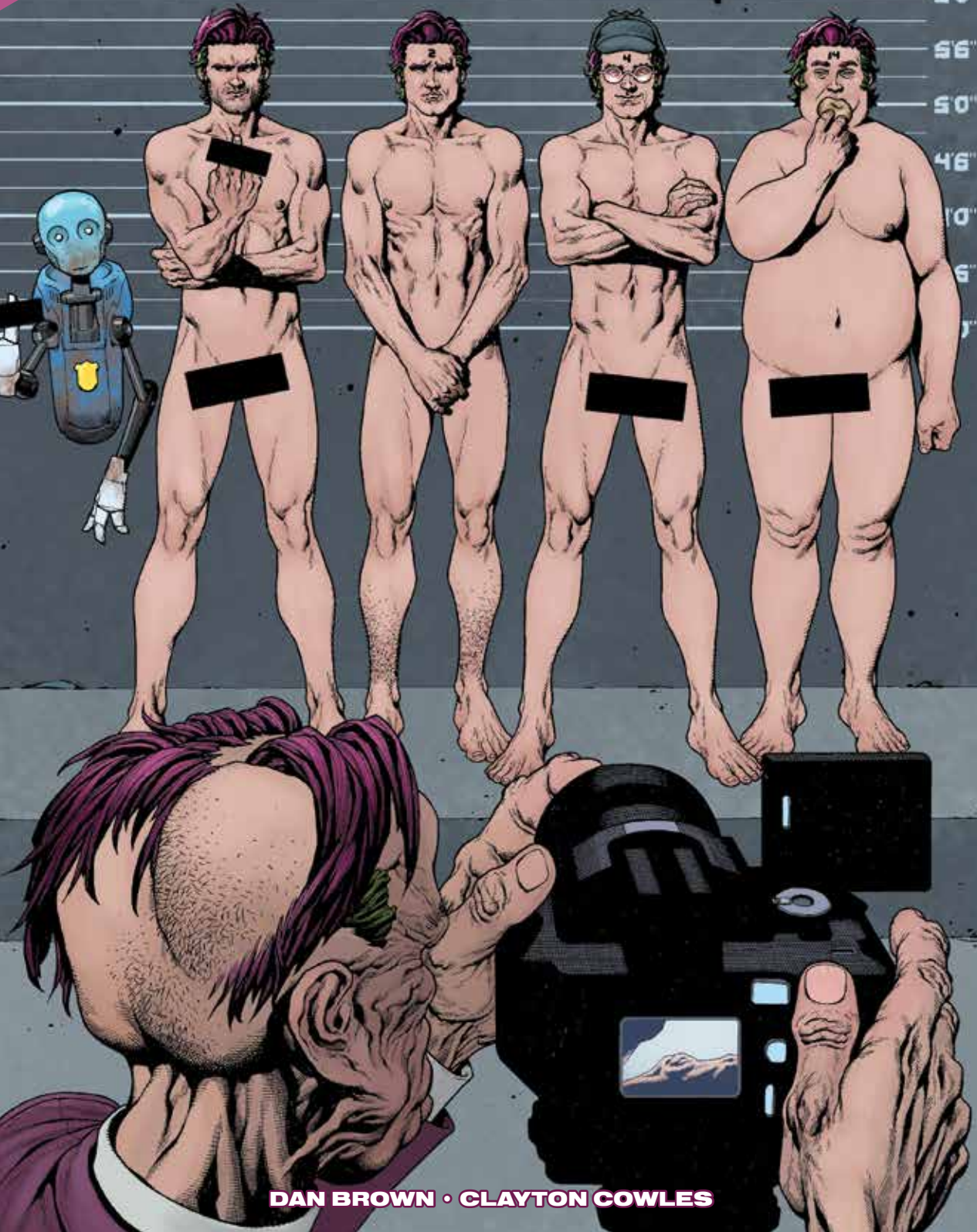


"This is the best science fiction comic available. Fun, cool, mysterious, horrific, and just badass...highest possible recommendation. A+" — INDIECOMIX.NET

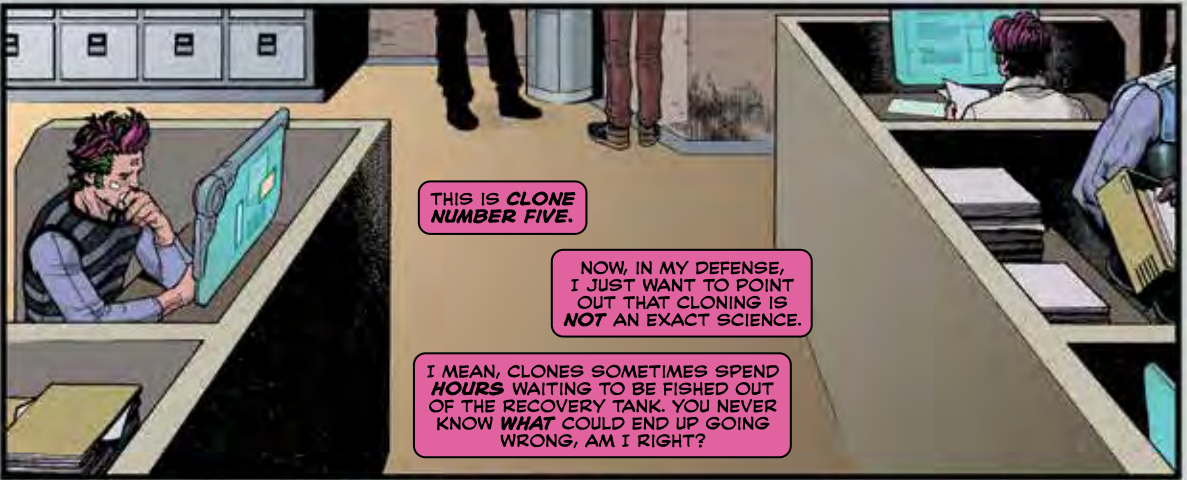
#5

PAUL JENKINS • ANDY CLARKE

REPLICA



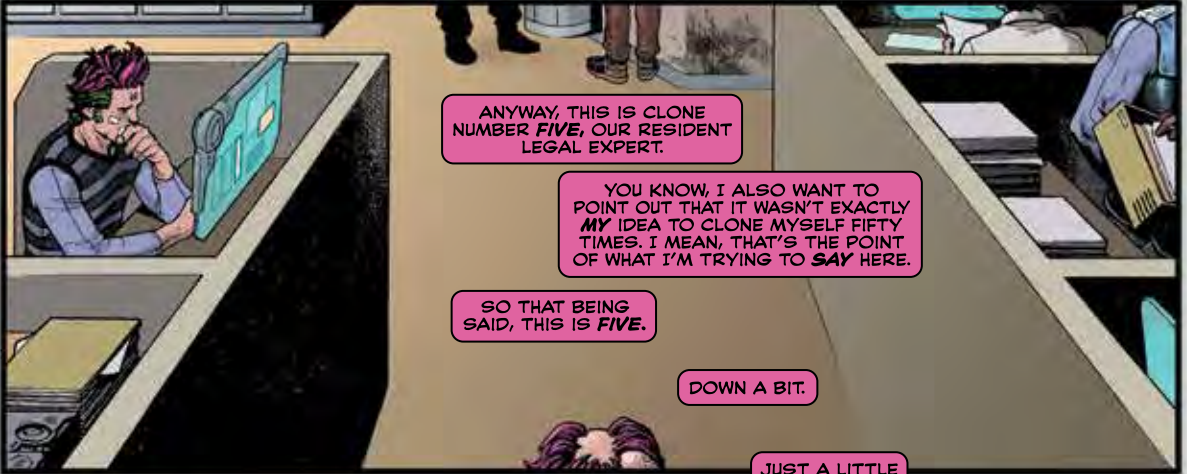
DAN BROWN • CLAYTON COWLES



THIS IS **CLONE NUMBER FIVE**.

NOW, IN MY DEFENSE, I JUST WANT TO POINT OUT THAT CLONING IS **NOT** AN EXACT SCIENCE.

I MEAN, CLONES SOMETIMES SPEND **HOURS** WAITING TO BE FISHED OUT OF THE RECOVERY TANK. YOU NEVER KNOW **WHAT** COULD END UP GOING WRONG, AM I RIGHT?



ANYWAY, THIS IS **CLONE NUMBER FIVE**, OUR RESIDENT LEGAL EXPERT.

YOU KNOW, I ALSO WANT TO POINT OUT THAT IT WASN'T EXACTLY **MY** IDEA TO CLONE MYSELF FIFTY TIMES. I MEAN, THAT'S THE POINT OF WHAT I'M TRYING TO **SAY** HERE.

SO THAT BEING SAID, THIS IS **FIVE**.

DOWN A BIT.

JUST A LITTLE LOWER.

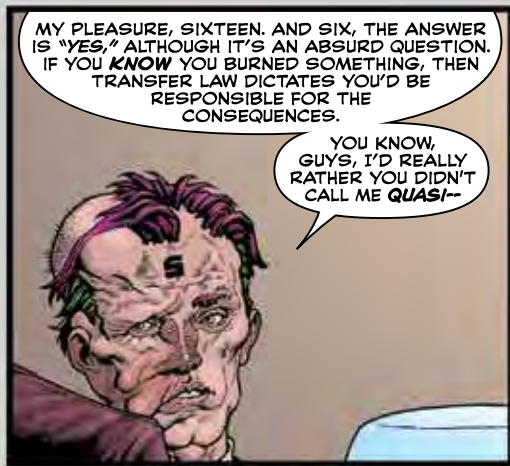


GOT IT.



YO, **QUASI!**
THANKS FOR GETTING
BACK TO ME ON THAT
CASE FILE. YOU REALLY
SAVED MY ASS
WITH STOLTEH.

HEY, **QUASI.**
LEGAL QUESTION--
IF YOU BURN SOMETHING
REMOETLY AND YOU AREN'T
AROUND TO **SEE IT,**
ARE YOU LEGALLY
RESPONSIBLE?



MY PLEASURE, SIXTEEN. AND SIX, THE ANSWER
IS "YES," ALTHOUGH IT'S AN ABSURD QUESTION.
IF YOU **KNOW** YOU BURNED SOMETHING, THEN
TRANSFER LAW DICTATES YOU'D BE
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
CONSEQUENCES.

YOU KNOW,
GUYS, I'D REALLY
RATHER YOU DIDN'T
CALL ME **QUASI!**--



HUH.
GOOD TO
KNOW.

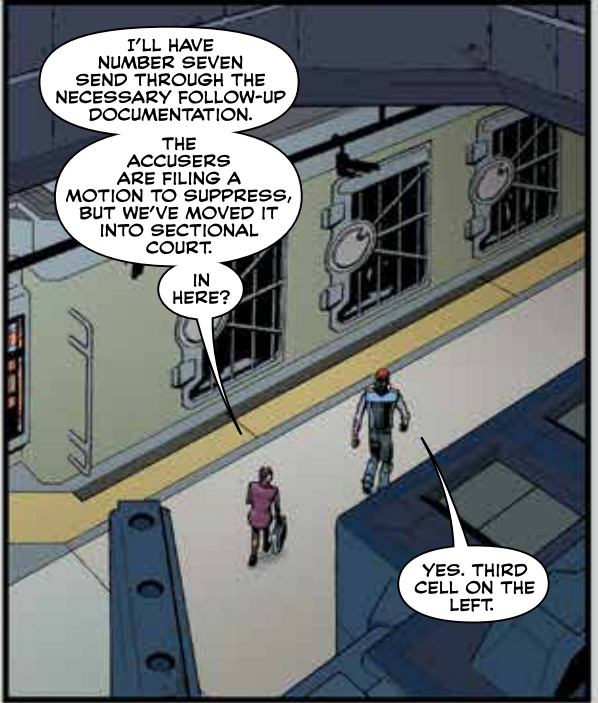
THANKS,
QUASI! YOU'RE
A LEGAL GENIUS,
MY MAN!



...SO I SAY,
"HE'S A FREAK AN'
HIS HEAD LOOKS LIKE
A PAIR OF GONADS."
AND THAT FRUIT LOOP
SEVEN'S ALL, LIKE,
"LIVE AND LET
LIVE, MAN!"--

!XNAY!
!XNAY!







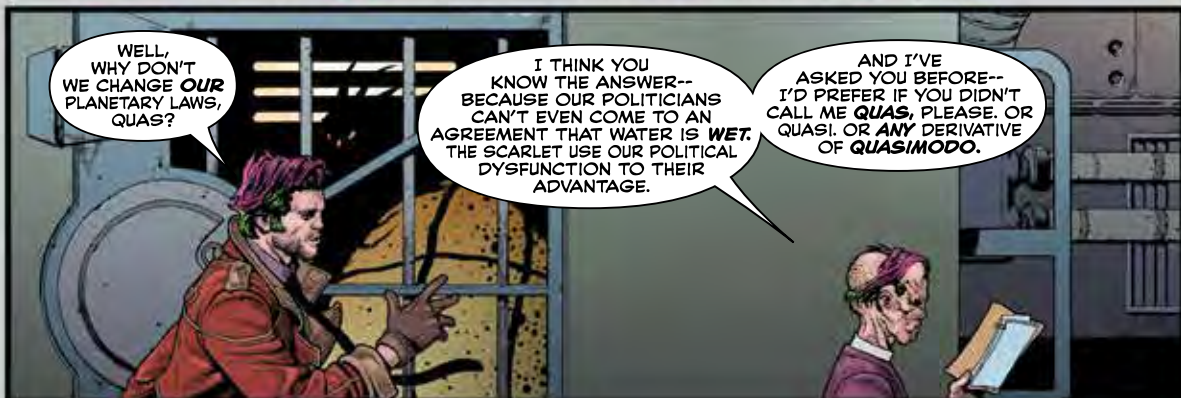
OKAY, WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME. THE SCARLET HAVE ACCUSED YOU JAILBIRDS OF TRESPASSING ON SOVEREIGN TERRITORY ONCE THEY TOOK POSSESSION OF THE MZULTCH EMBASSY--

WHICH THEY BLEW UP WHILE WE WERE STANDING *INSIDE* IT!



THE SCARLET KNOW *EXACTLY* WHAT THEY'RE DOING, TREVOR--THEY PLAN AHEAD TO MANIPULATE A SITUATION, THEN CHANGE THEIR PLANETARY LAWS TO ACCOMMODATE THEIR AMBITIONS.

FOLLOW ME, PLEASE.



WELL, WHY DON'T WE CHANGE *OUR* PLANETARY LAWS, QUAS?

I THINK YOU KNOW THE ANSWER-- BECAUSE OUR POLITICIANS CAN'T EVEN COME TO AN AGREEMENT THAT WATER IS *WET*. THE SCARLET USE OUR POLITICAL DYSFUNCTION TO THEIR ADVANTAGE.

AND I'VE ASKED YOU BEFORE-- I'D PREFER IF YOU DIDN'T CALL ME *QUAS*, PLEASE. OR QUASI. OR ANY DERIVATIVE OF *QUASIMODO*.



WE HAVE A *SITUATION*--IT'S A LEGAL THING. APPARENTLY, A CERTAIN *SOMEONE* FILED ON HIS PRECINCT WORK APPLICATION THAT ALL HIS PERSONAL LEGAL ISSUES SHOULD BE RESOLVED BY DIRECT CONFRONTATION.

YOU'LL FIND YOUR ACCUSERS WAITING BEYOND THIS DOOR TO TAKE YOU UP ON THAT.

WHAT?!



BRING THESE SCARLET RUFFIANS FORWARD. I RELISH THE OPPORTUNITY TO SETTLE OUR DIFFERENCES THE SHADARR WAY--BY *MORTAL COMBAT!*



IT DOESN'T WORK LIKE THAT, I'M AFRAID, VORGAS--

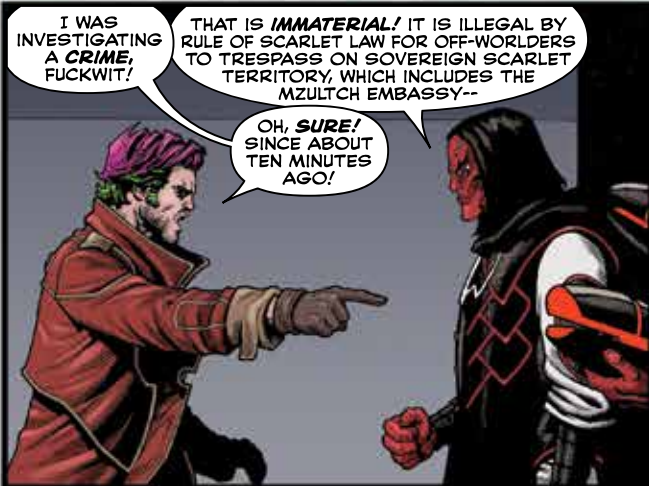
YOU! I CLAIM THE RIGHT OF DIRECT CONFRONTATION, AS REQUESTED BY YOUR PARTNER!



LIEUTENANT VORGAS OF THE SHADARR/ DETECTIVE TREVOR CHURCHILL OF THE TERRAN CONGLOMERATE--

--I CITE PARAGRAPH 1329Y#6-4, SUBSECTION EPSILON-5-^, THIRTEENTH AMENDED CLAUSE OF THE IMPERIAL SCARLET CONSTITUTION!

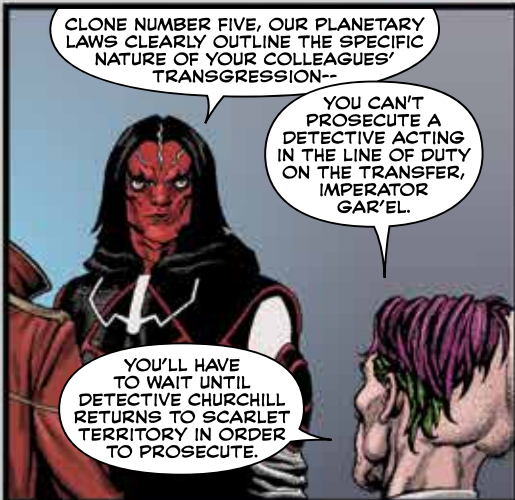
YOU HAVE BEEN ACCUSED AND FOUND GUILTY OF TRESPASSING ON SCARLET SOVEREIGN TERRITORY, FOR WHICH THE PUNISHMENT IS DEATH WITH NO POSSIBILITY OF APPEAL!



I WAS INVESTIGATING A **CRIME**, FUCKWIT!

THAT IS **IMMATERIAL!** IT IS ILLEGAL BY RULE OF SCARLET LAW FOR OFF-WORLDBERS TO TRESPASS ON SOVEREIGN SCARLET TERRITORY, WHICH INCLUDES THE MZULTCH EMBASSY--

OH, **SURE!** SINCE ABOUT TEN MINUTES AGO!



CLONE NUMBER FIVE, OUR PLANETARY LAWS CLEARLY OUTLINE THE SPECIFIC NATURE OF YOUR COLLEAGUES' TRANSGRESSION--

YOU CAN'T PROSECUTE A DETECTIVE ACTING IN THE LINE OF DUTY ON THE TRANSFER, IMPERATOR GAR'EL.

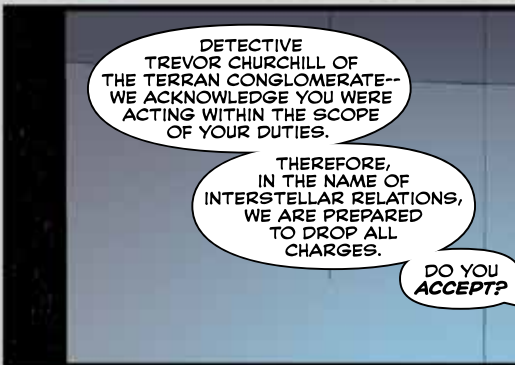
YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL DETECTIVE CHURCHILL RETURNS TO SCARLET TERRITORY IN ORDER TO PROSECUTE.



YES, WELL...WE MAY BE PERSUADED NOT TO SEEK AN EXTRADITION ORDER IN RETURN FOR CERTAIN CONSIDERATIONS. LIKE THE HEAD OF THIS SHADARR CUR, FOR EXAMPLE...

AM I PERMITTED TO **PUNCH** HIM YET, TREVOR?

ANY MINUTE NOW, PAL.



DETECTIVE TREVOR CHURCHILL OF THE TERRAN CONGLOMERATE-- WE ACKNOWLEDGE YOU WERE ACTING WITHIN THE SCOPE OF YOUR DUTIES.

THEREFORE, IN THE NAME OF INTERSTELLAR RELATIONS, WE ARE PREPARED TO DROP ALL CHARGES.

DO YOU **ACCEPT?**





SO YOU CHUCKLEHEADS CAME HERE TO FORMALLY DROP ALL CHARGES? **FINE!**

NO, **WAIT!**



DETECTIVES CHURCHILL AND VORGAS, AND CLONES TWO AND FOUR, SUMMARILY REJECT YOUR CONCILIATORY OFFER. NO FUTURE OFFERS FROM THE SCARLET WILL BE CONSIDERED. NOW, PLEASE LEAVE THIS PRECINCT BEFORE I HAVE YOU **ARRESTED** FOR TRESPASSING.

WHAAAT?!



YOU FILTHY LITTLE TROLL! YOU AND YOUR TERRAN PAYMASTERS HAVE EARNED THE CONTEMPT OF THE SCARLET!

HOW EVER SHALL I **SLEEP**, SIR?

I WOULD ADVISE WITH **ONE EYE OPEN!**



I'LL TAKE THAT UNDER ADVISEMENT, IMPERATOR GAR'EL. IN THE MEANTIME, WE'LL PREPARE A LEGAL DEFENSE FOR OUR PEOPLE.

NOW **FUCK OFF.**



E



QUAS, YOU MIND TELLING ME WHY YOU JUST AGREED TO PUT US IN FRONT OF A **FIRING SQUAD**?

BECAUSE THE SCARLET RELY ON AN OBSCURE LAW-- IF YOU AGREE TO THEM DROPPING ANY OF THEIR TRUMPED-UP CHARGES, YOU BECOME **OFFICIAL PROPERTY** OF THE SCARLET EMPIRE.

IT'S THE OLDEST TRICK IN THEIR PLAYBOOK.



QUASI, YOU LITTLE BULLSHITTER. YOU MADE THEM THINK YOU WERE STUPID, AND THEN YOU GAVE THEM BOTH BARRELS.

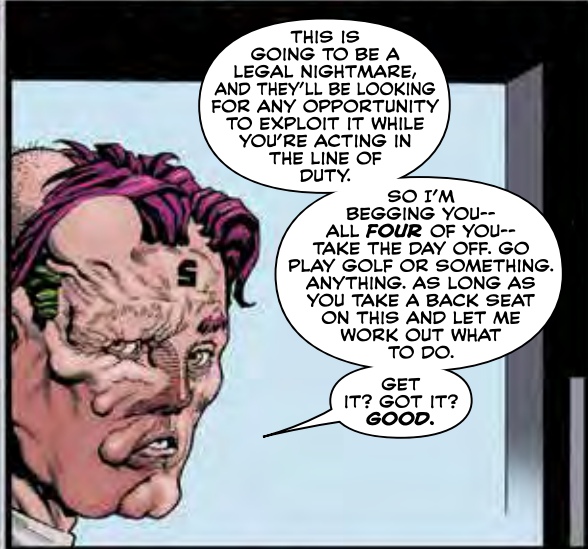
I'D HUG YOU IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE SUCH A REVOLTING SKIN CONDITION, YOU NASTY LITTLE GOBLIN.



I **ALSO** MADE THEM THINK I WAS STUPID.

YEAH, YOU DID GREAT, PAL.

I'VE BOUGHT US SOME TIME, BUT THE SCARLET ARE RELENTLESS--THEY'LL BE BACK ONCE THEY WORK OUT WHAT LAWS THEY NEED TO CHANGE IN THEIR FAVOR.



THIS IS GOING TO BE A LEGAL NIGHTMARE, AND THEY'LL BE LOOKING FOR ANY OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLOIT IT WHILE YOU'RE ACTING IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

SO I'M BEGGING YOU-- ALL **FOUR** OF YOU-- TAKE THE DAY OFF. GO PLAY GOLF OR SOMETHING. ANYTHING. AS LONG AS YOU TAKE A BACK SEAT ON THIS AND LET ME WORK OUT WHAT TO DO.

GET IT? GOT IT? **GOOD.**



SO. **GOLF?**

ONE HOUR LATER.

I THOUGHT WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE GOLFING. WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?

WELL, ROGER, WE ARE IGNORING LEGAL COUNSEL.

"THE LAST THING ANYONE WOULD EXPECT US TO DO-- THE LAST THING ANYONE IN HIS *RIGHT MIND* WOULD DO-- WOULD BE TO ENTER SCARLET SOVEREIGN TERRITORY UNDER THREAT OF IMMEDIATE EXECUTION.

"BUT THOSE ASSHOLES HAVE BLOWN UP A PLANET FULL OF VERY NICE ALIENS AND TAKEN CONTROL OF MACHINE ARTIFACTS, WHICH I DON'T LIKE ONE LITTLE BIT.

"SO BECAUSE I AM NOT CURRENTLY IN MY *RIGHT MIND*, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE GOING TO *DO*."

YEAH, BUT WHY DO *WE* HAVE TO COME ALONG? WHAT ABOUT FOURTEEN?

ALL SHALL BE REVEALED, MY EAGER YOUNG DISCIPLE.

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW IS WE ARE GOING TO TAKE THESE FUCKERS DOWN--



THERE HE IS!

OPEN UP A CHANNEL TO THE PRECINCT. I NEED TO TALK TO OUR LEGAL EXPERT.