

VITAL SIGNS






PERCEPTION CAN BE
A FUNNY THING.




WHAT YOU SEE CAN KEEP YOU ALIVE.



WHAT YOU DON'T SEE CAN TICK PEOPLE OFF.

DO NOT CROSS



YOU FEEL LIKE
YOU'RE MOVIN'
SLO-MO, RIGHT?

LIKE SO MUCH, IT CAN DEPEND
ON THE SITUATION. HERE,
THERE'S A THREAT. THESE
MEN ARE THREATENING TO
BRING GUNS AND VIOLENCE
INTO MY HOOD.



SO THAT HAS TO BE RECTIFIED.

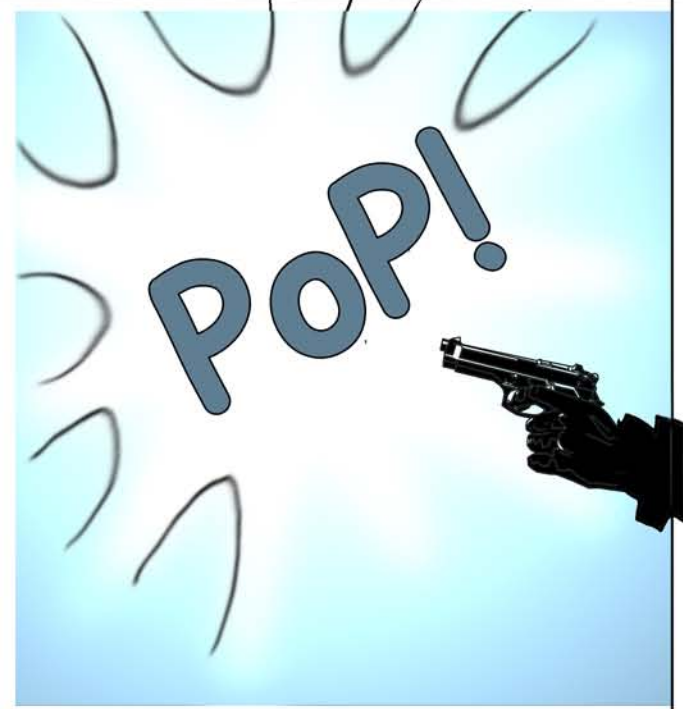
LET ME SPEED THINGS UP FOR YOU.

THEY NEED TO SEE THAT CAN'T HAPPEN.



AW DAMN - NOW SEE, THIS MAN SEES ME AS A THREAT TO HIS LIVELIHOOD.

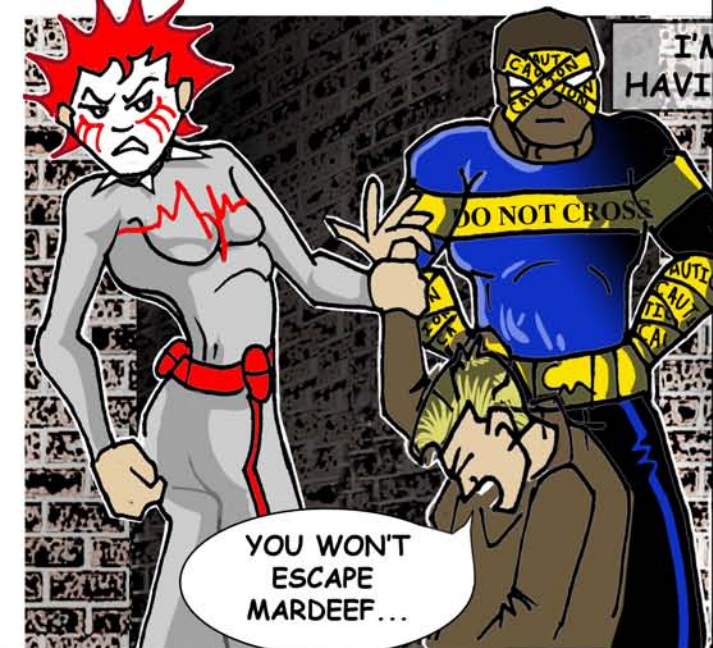
MARDEEF IS GOING TO GET YOU!



POP!



DAMN!!



I'M NOT HAVIN' THAT.

YOU WON'T ESCAPE MARDEEF...



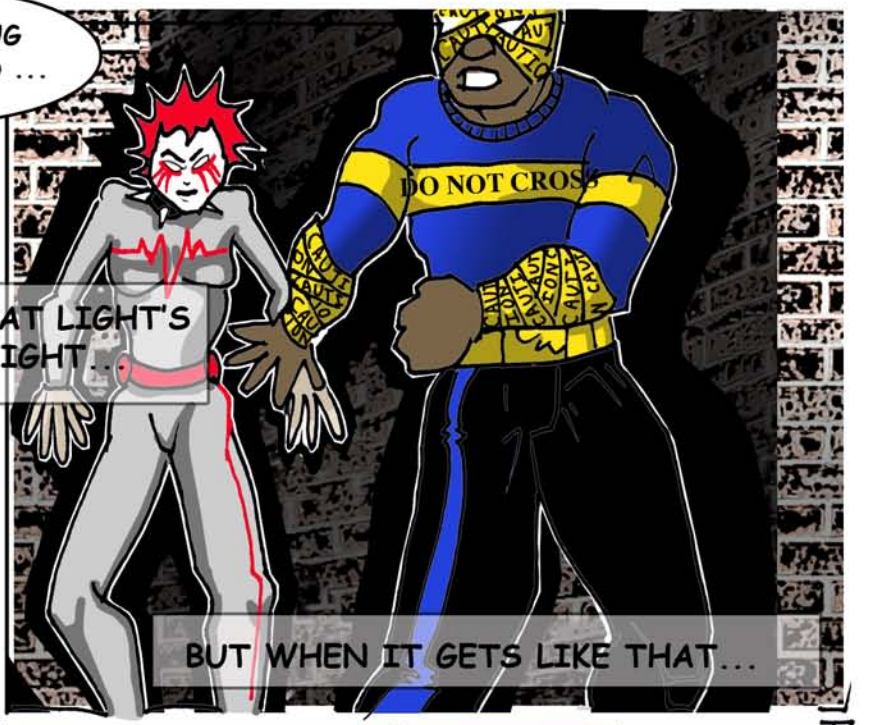
MARDEEF. NOT THE FIRST TIME WE'VE HEARD THAT NAME.



THAT THUG MENTIONED ...

DAMN, THAT LIGHT'S SO BRIGHT...

NOT NOW! DON'T YOU SEE THE PRESS ARE HERE?



BUT WHEN IT GETS LIKE THAT...



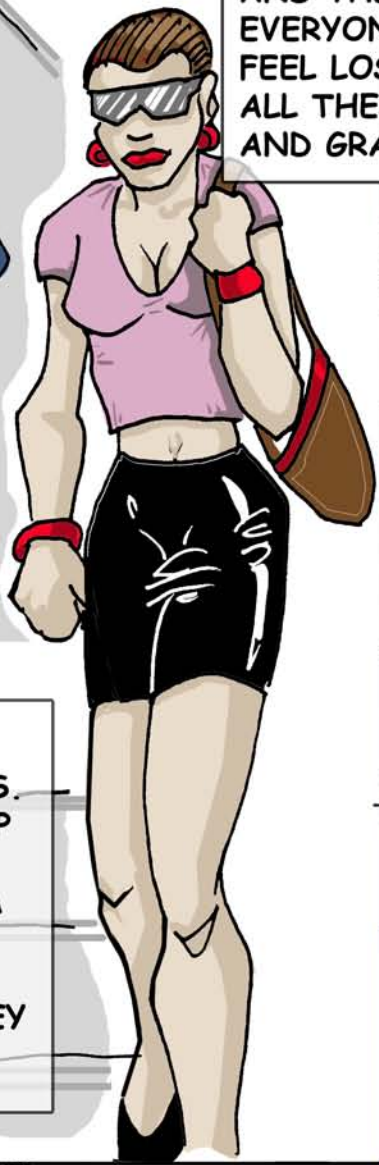
IT'S NICE TO STEP AWAY...



...AND BREATHE.

IF ONLY FOR A MOMENT.

MARDEEF. THUG AFTER THUG. AND THE ATTENTION - EVERYONE LOOKING AT US. I FEEL LOST MORE AND MORE. ALL THESE HANDS PUNCHING AND GRABBING AT ME.



CAUTION. MY COMPADRE



MY BLOOD, HE'S EVERYWHERE THESE DAYS.

HE'S OUT THERE, YOU KNOW?

AND ALL THIS ANALYSIS OF US. WE TRY TO STOP CRIME. AND CAUTION'S IDEA TO SELL OUR PRINTS TO GENERATE MONEY FOR CHARITY.



BUT HE'S NOT WITH ME TOO MUCH THESE DAYS. WE ARE NO LONGER TALKING MUCH OUTSIDE OF OUR MISSIONS.

I FEEL A BIT UNTETHERED. EVERYTHING OUTSIDE IS LIKE A TORNADO SWIRLING AROUND ME.

BECAUSE TIME DOES NOT STOP, I GO TO WORK IN MORNING TO THE NONPROFIT.




I FIGHT CRIME AT NIGHT.

AND TONIGHT - WE'RE FINALLY GONNA SEE THIS MARDEEF BASTARD.





AT THIS MOMENT - IT'S EXHILARATING. IT WAS ONLY TWO YEARS AGO HENRY - CAUTION - HOOKED US UP WITH NANOTECHNOLOGY.



TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. TO GIVE MYSELF SUPERAGILITY AND THE ABILITY TO SLOW DOWN OTHERS REACTION TIME. TO GIVE CAUTION SUPERSTRENGTH. TO GET CRIME OFF OUR STREETS




WE LEFT THE CLUB THEN AFTER JUST RELEASING OURSELVES. FUNNY THING, NOTHING HAPPENED. AND OUTSIDE OF A KISS, NOTHING EVER DID.



WE STAND TOGETHER NOW IN A TRAP - PROBABLY NERVOUS FOR THE FIRST TIME, FACING OUR FIRST MYSTERIOUS CRIME BOSS.



WE JUST BECAME CONFIDANTES, FRIENDS, WARRIORS.



WE MET WHEN WE WERE BOTH LOOKING TO ESCAPE. MY HERMANO HAD BEEN SHOT BY A STRAY BULLET. CAUTION'S BUSINESS WAS BEING SQUEEZED BY THE MOB.



EXIT

ALL THESE THUGS
LOOK THE SAME.
FOR A MOMENT I
THINK THEY'RE ALL
THE SAME.

WE'RE STANDING
ON A MAP.

FOR A SECOND, I
FREEZE. WE DIDN'T
GET MUCH INTEL.

MARDEEF IS...AARGH!!

CAUTION!

YEAH?

Shink!!



YOU OK?

YEAH, JUST
SCRATCHED
SOMEHOW.

THEY'RE GETTING
AWAY! I'M GONNA
SCOPE FROM ON
TOP HERE.



THE THUGS ARE GOING INTO THAT PORTAL!



HUH?



I'M OFF VITAL.

POP
CLICK
D A C

WHO'S THERE?

I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING,

NO ONE ANSWERED. OF COURSE.

BUT I GOT THE MESSAGE.



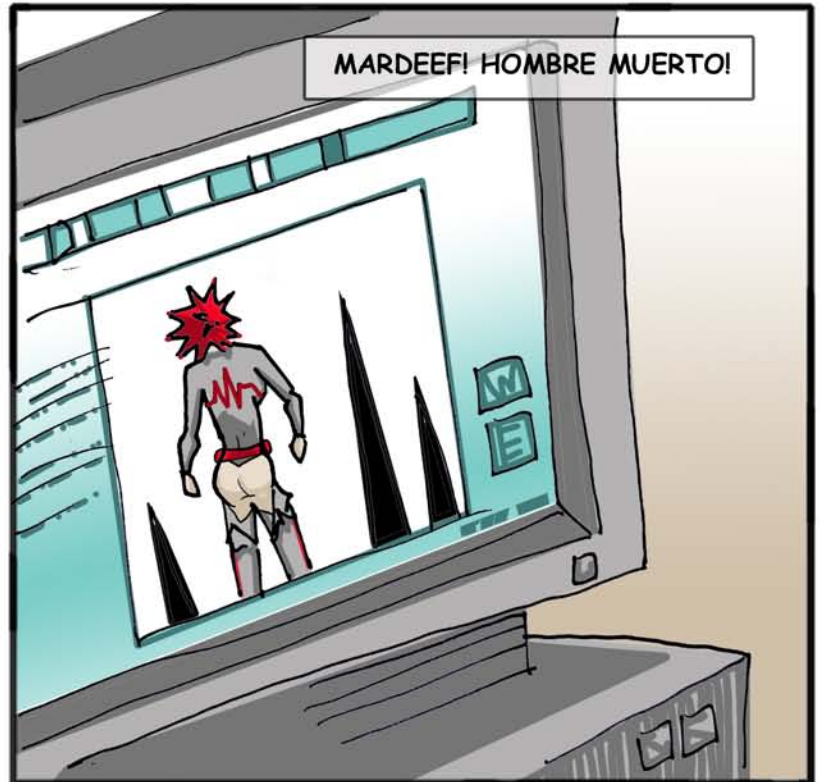
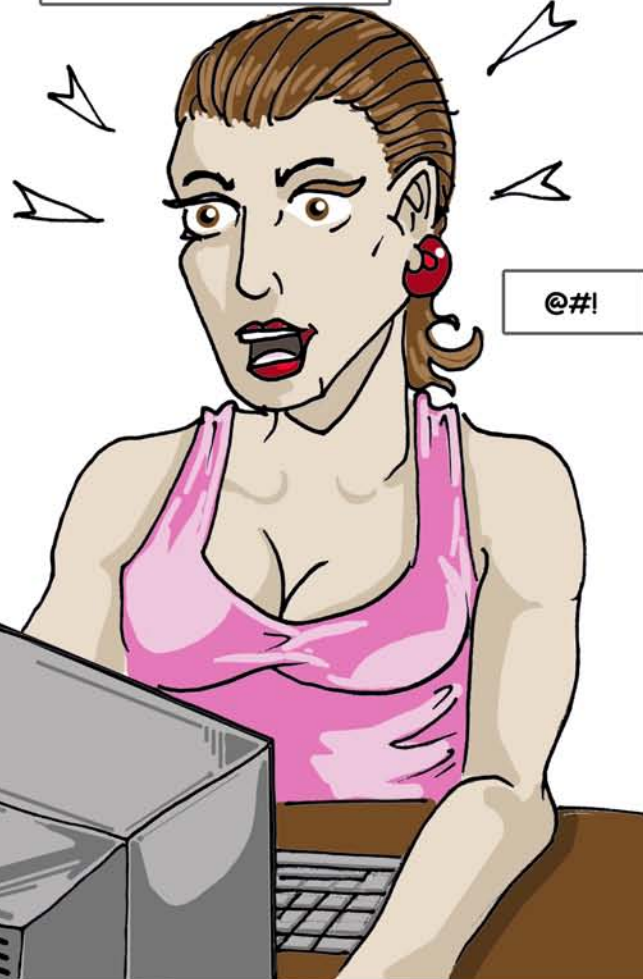
WE'RE ON MARDEEF'S TURF. AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE IT BEGINS OR ENDS.

THE NEXT DAY

CAUTION DIDN'T GET ANY THUGS. WE THINK IT WAS A MISDIRECTION OR SOMETHING.

BUT STANDING THERE FOR A SECOND, ALONE, SKITTERISH, IT REALLY HIT HOME... FORGET ALL THAT OUTSIDE NONSENSE. DO WHAT I CAN. IF SOMEONE WANTS TO CAUSE TROUBLE, WELL...

THEY CAN KISS MY -



THE END