

DEVLIN WAUGH



SWIMMING IN BLOOD

DEVLIN WAUGH CREATED BY JOHN SMITH & SEAN PHILLIPS



THE CURSE OF DEVLIN WAUGH

'The name's Waugh. Devlin Waugh. I'm here to steal the show ...' Despite only appearing in a handful of stories over the last decade, camp crusader Devlin Waugh has become one of the *2000 AD* group's most popular characters; he's been drawn by some of the top artists in British comics and had his adventures reprinted in several graphic novels. But there's a dark side to Devlin: his stories seem to attract trouble, with every effort to revive the character in the *Megazine* dogged by difficulty. Could Devlin himself be cursed?

The character was created by John Smith and Sean Phillips, a pairing that worked well on strips for the mature readers comic *Crisis*. Smith was invited to pitch stories for the *Megazine* when it was being launched in 1990. 'I'd been asked by Steve MacManus but all my ideas got turned down, one way or another,' he recalls. Among the rejects was an occult investigator called Eddie Whyteman, who later appeared with Devlin in *2000 AD*.

After the *Megazine* launched, MacManus charged his assistant David Bishop with finding the next generation of characters and creators for the comic. 'I remember when John sent in the proposal for Devlin,' Bishop says. 'It was virtually perfect, aside from the name of the story and the lead character.' The papal envoy was called Father

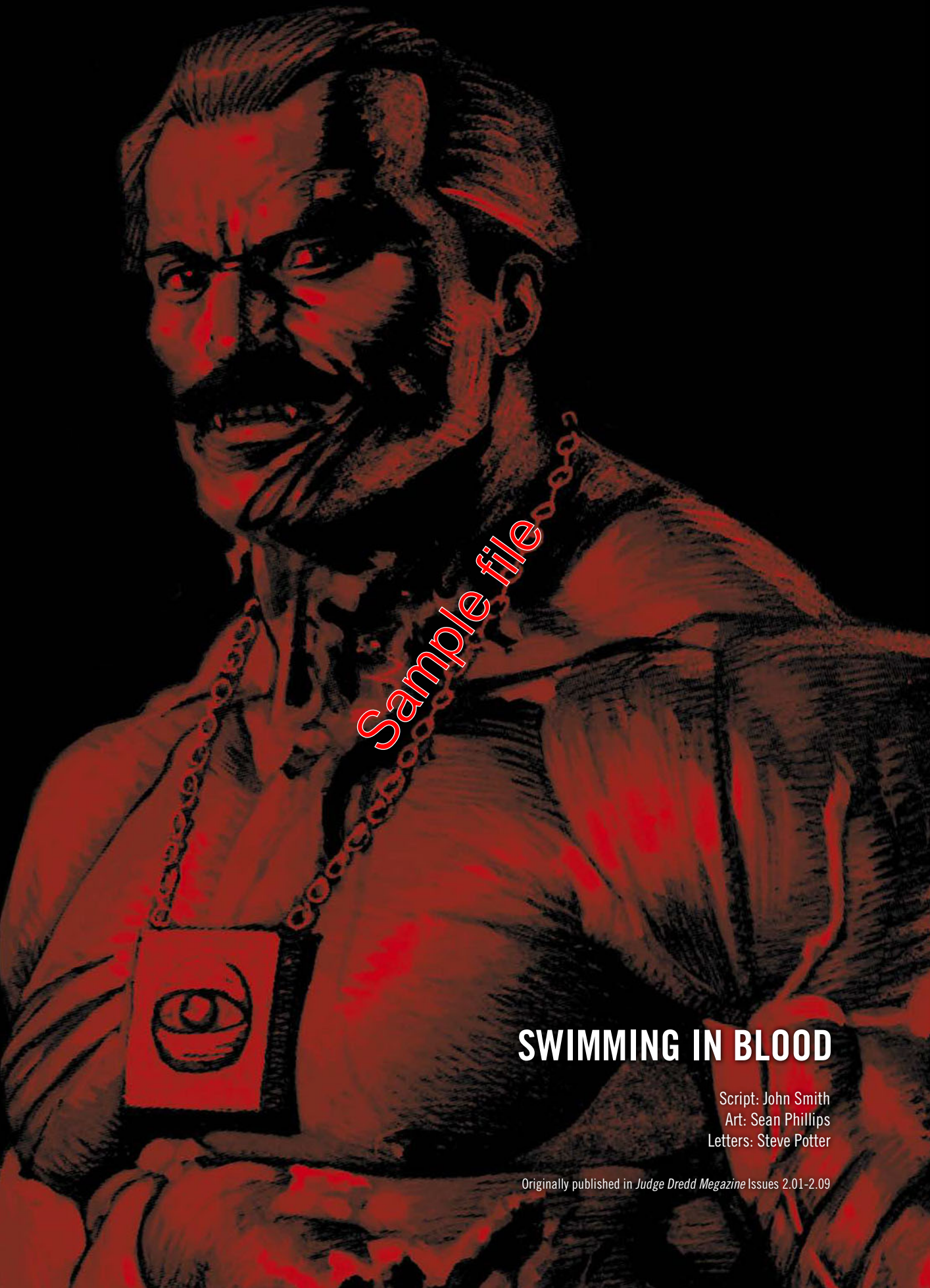
Dirk Devlin, with his nickname 'Sin Eater' providing the story's title. Smith was persuaded to re-christen the lead character Devlin Waugh, a pun on the name of *Brideshead Revisited* author Evelyn Waugh.

But Phillips was initially unavailable to illustrate the series. 'Fortunately, John takes so long writing his scripts that by the time they were ready, Sean had become available again,' Bishop recalls. Phillips began work on the story, with initial episodes painted at twice publication size. 'The art on the double-page spread pages was huge, creating terrible problems when we tried to make films of them,' Bishop says. Phillips soon reverted to painting the series half-up – ie, only one-and-a-half times publication size. But the editorial team forgot to alert letterer Steve Potter to the change. As a result the lettering abruptly shrunk in size between Parts Two and Three.

Despite these problems the series was a big hit with *Megazine* readers. In the magazine's annual survey Devlin was voted second favourite character and best new character, with *Swimming in Blood* being crowned the favourite series of 1992.

David Bishop

Extract from *The Curse of Devlin Waugh*
Judge Dredd Magazine Issue 201



Sample file

SWIMMING IN BLOOD

Script: John Smith
Art: Sean Phillips
Letters: Steve Potter

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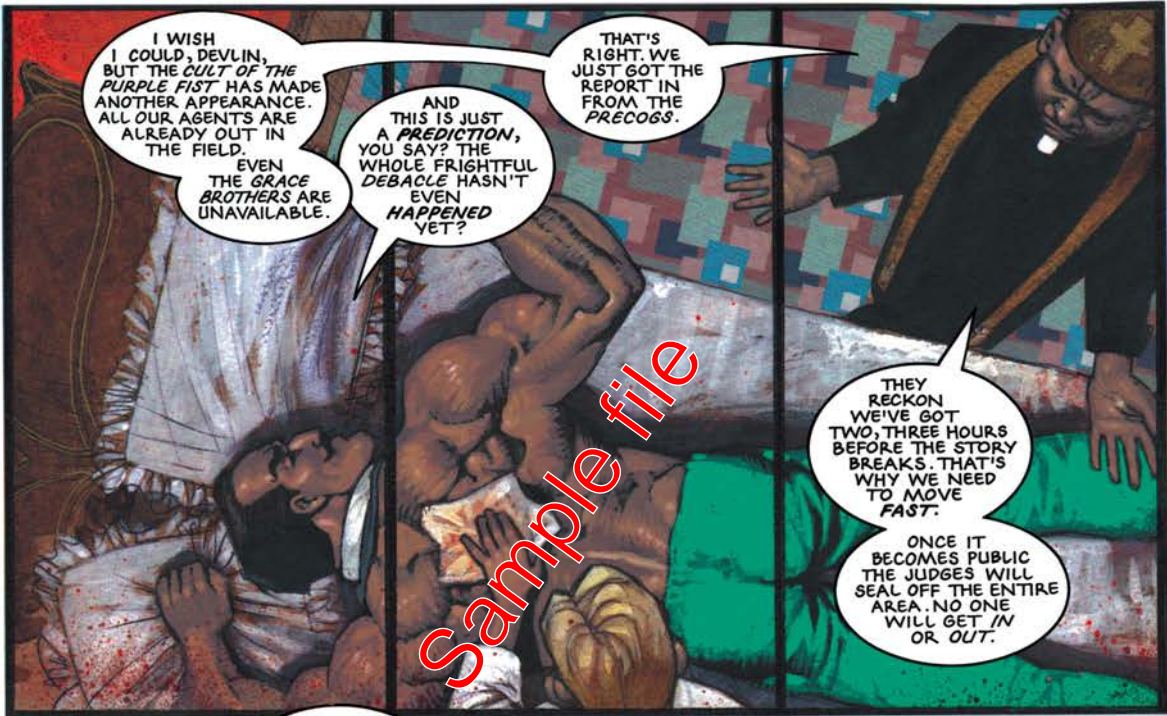


MY DEAR CARDINAL, IT MIGHT HAVE ESCAPED YOUR NOTICE, BUT I'M IN PERFECT HELL HERE...



I'VE JUST SPENT A BEASTLY TWO WEEKS IN KENYA, BEING HOUNDED BY THE LEOPARD MEN OF MADO GASHI.

COULDN'T YOU SEND SOMEONE ELSE?



I WISH I COULD, DEVLIN, BUT THE CULT OF THE PURPLE FIST HAS MADE ANOTHER APPEARANCE. ALL OUR AGENTS ARE ALREADY OUT IN THE FIELD. EVEN THE GRACE BROTHERS ARE UNAVAILABLE.

AND THIS IS JUST A PREDICTION, YOU SAY? THE WHOLE FRIGHTFUL DEBACLE HASN'T EVEN HAPPENED YET?

THAT'S RIGHT. WE JUST GOT THE REPORT IN FROM THE PRECOGS.

THEY RECKON WE'VE GOT TWO, THREE HOURS BEFORE THE STORY BREAKS. THAT'S WHY WE NEED TO MOVE FAST.

ONCE IT BECOMES PUBLIC THE JUDGES WILL SEAL OFF THE ENTIRE AREA. NO ONE WILL GET IN OR OUT.



AND THIS ILLUSTRIOUS CASE... IT WOULDN'T INVOLVE ANOTHER DREARY OUTING TO LEAMINGTON SPA, I HOPE?

IF I HAVE TO FACE ONE MORE BLUE-RINSE BOUFFANT, I JUST KNOW I SHALL BE VIOLENTLY SICK.



NO. THIS ASSIGNMENT'S IN THE TROPICS. A SMALL UNSULLIED PART OF THE BLACK ATLANTIC.

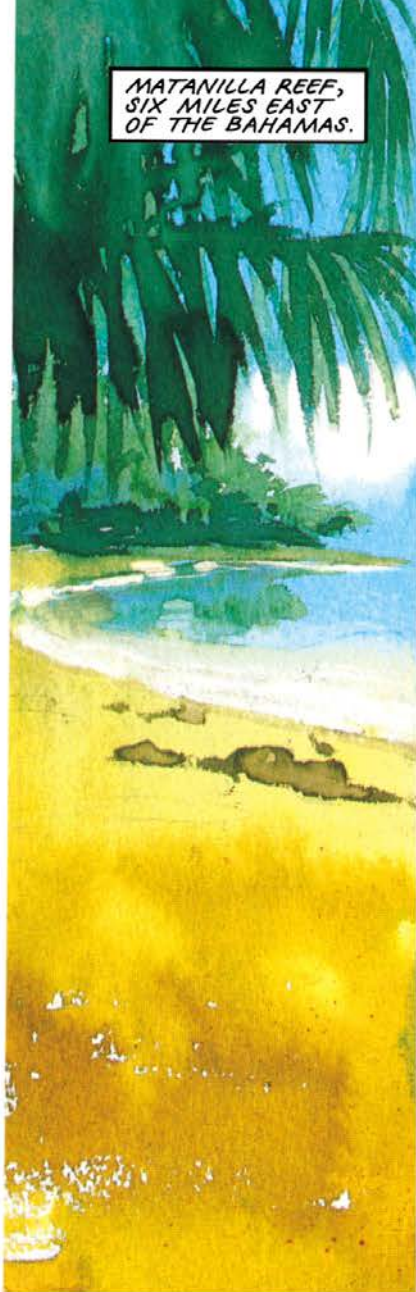
EVER HEARD OF THE BAHAMAS?



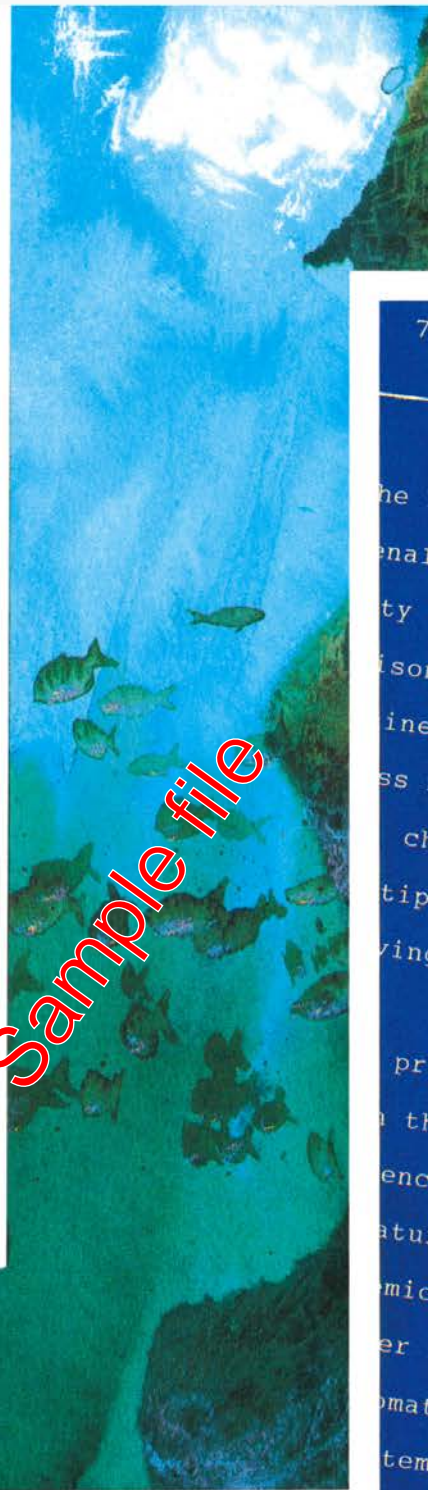
HEARD OF THEM? MY DEAR CARDINAL, IT'S PRACTICALLY MY SECOND HOME.

DO I HAVE TIME TO PACK?

MATANILLA REEF,
SIX MILES EAST
OF THE BAHAMAS.



Sample file



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the Larventz-Steige
enal Complex is Me
ty One's newest se
ison. It houses ov
ine hundred crimi
ss murderers, psyc
child killers and
multiple rapists. Al
ving life-sentence

prison is equippe
the most modern
ence/containment
atures, including
mical suppressant
er barriers, and
omatic high-freque
tem.

the heart of Aquatraz
the CCU-the central
mputer unit, an automa
nomic



SWIMMING IN BLOOD

Sample file

THE LARVENTZ-STEIGER
PENAL COMPLEX, THE
WORLD'S FIRST UNDER-
WATER PRISON.

BETTER KNOWN TO
THE STAFF SIMPLY
AS AQUATRAZ.





HEY, LANDIS!



HEY, BUGMAN!

YOU'RE A FREAK, Y'KNOW THAT? WE LAUGH ABOUT YOU, MAN! WE TALK ABOUT YOU BEHIND YOUR BACK!



ABOUT HOW WE'RE GONNA KILL YOU. LIKE A BUG. LIKE A DROKKIN' COCKROACH.

WE'RE GONNA SQUISH YOU, MAN! GONNA PULL YOUR LEGS CLEAN OFF!



SEE THIS?

THIS IS WHAT I THINK OF YOUR PETS, LANDIS! YOU WATCHIN' THIS, MAN?

Sample file



ALL RIGHT!

HEY, I DID IT, GUYS! THE BUGMAN LOST HIS COOL! HE'S COMIN' TO GET ME!



YOU WORRIED, FREAK? YOU WORRIED 'COS I KILLED YOUR LITTLE BUDDY?

WELL YOU SHOULD BE WORRIED, MAN, 'COS THAT'S WHAT I'M GONNA DO TO YOU.



THAT'S IT, FREAK. COME ON. COME AN' GET SQUISHED, MAN...

YOU COME RIGHT ON UP AN'



AAAA!
AAAA GRUD!
AAA!

OH JOVUS.
WILL YOU
LOOK AT THAT?
HE'S GONE
CRAZY. THE
GUY'S GONE
CRAZY...

WHAA

COHEN,
GET LOWNDES.
GET SOME MEN
DOWN THERE
NOW!

Sample file



WE'RE
NOT EXACTLY
SURE HOW, UH,
HOW *SERIOUS*
THE PROBLEM IS
MR. KOENIG,
BUT—

MURRAY.
CALL ME
MURRAY.

LAURENCE
J. MEECH
WARDEN

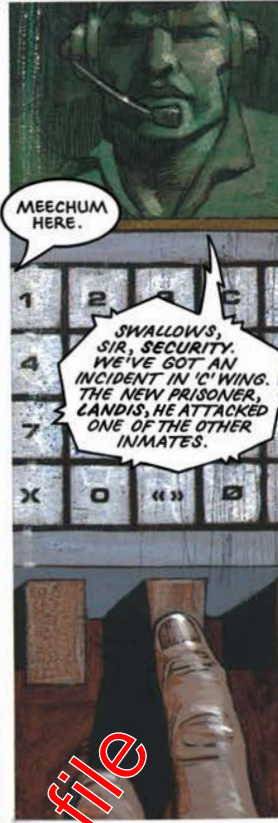


UH,
MURRAY.
BUT,
WELL, IT'S
OBVIOUSLY
SERIOUS ENOUGH
FOR US TO
CALL YOU
IN.

INTERZONE
PEST CONTROL



WHAT
WORRIES
ME IS HOW
THESE THINGS
GOT IN TO *START*
WITH. WE'RE
EIGHTY METRES
UNDERWATER, IN
A COMPLETELY
SEALED ENVIR-
ONMENT...



(CONTINUES ON PAGE 26)



WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED HERE? LOOKS LIKE HE WAS HIT WITH A LAZSAW...



SOME KIND OF FIGHT. GUY USED HIS **TEETH**, ACCORDING TO SWALLOWS. TOOK OFF HIS SCALP LIKE A SWIMMING CAP.
WHY? YOU SCARED YOU WERE USING THE SAME **SHAMPOO**?

NAH. I GET ALL MY HEALTH-CARE ADVICE FROM MEECHUM. IT'S THE ONE GOOD THING ABOUT **HYPOCHONDRIACS**: THEY—
AAAA!



JOVUS, VERN! WHAT IS IT?
I DON'T KNOW. SOMETHING...

Sample file



IT **MOVED**. THE **BODY**. I WAS CLEANING OUT THE CHEST CAVITY AND THE DAMN THING...
...**MOVED**.



COME ON. IT'S A **CORPSE**, FOR GRUD'S SAKE. WE JUST **GUTTED** THE DAMN THING.
I DON'T CARE. YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO DO THIS ONE YOURSELF, **RICHE**. THERE'S NO **WAY** I'M—



MURRAY STOPS AT THE NEXT INTERSECTION, PUTS DOWN A TRAP, AND MARKS IT ON THE GREENSCREEN.



HE'S USING SCHIELLER 5000s. PHEROMONE ATTRACTOR PACK WITH HIGH-ENERGY PLASMA STYLUS. BEST MODEL ON THE MARKET.

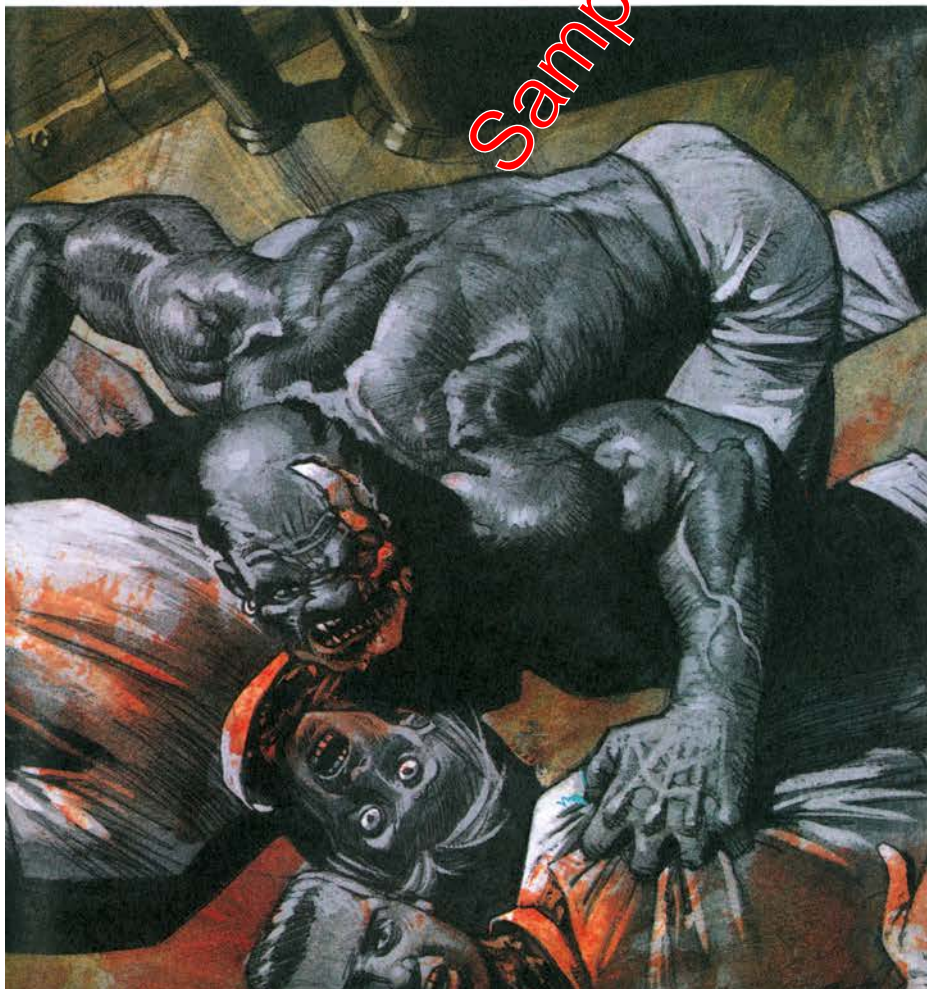


HALFWAY DOWN THE MAIN SHAFT HE STOPS. SUDDENLY, A NOISE, UP AHEAD. LOOKS LIKE HE'S FINALLY IN LUCK.



LET'S SEE YOU LITTLE RASCALS WRIGGLE YOUR WAY OUTTA THIS BABY...

Sample file



We're gonna need bigger traps.





ESSEX.
LOWNDES. I'M
GETTING A SIGNAL
FROM THE SECTOR
3 AIRLOCK. LOOKS
LIKE WE'VE GOT
SOMEONE
OUTSIDE...

YOU
MIND
CHECKING
IF THERE'S
A
FAULT?



CONTROL?
THERE'S
SOMEONE OUT
THERE, ALL RIGHT.
YOU SURE WE
AIN'T EXPECTIN'
VISITORS?

PROBABLY
SOME CREEPY
MONSTER FROM
THE DEEP,
MAN...



HANG ON.
SWALLOW'S
IS JUST BACK
FROM THE JOHN.
MAYBE HE
KNOWS WHAT'S
GOING ON...

Sample file



HEY,
SWALLOW'S!
OVER HERE A
MINUTE...



CONTROL?
YOU
READIN'
ME? YOU
THERE?
CONTROL?

LOOK
OUT!
ESSEX,
IT'S
OPENING!



ESSEX!