

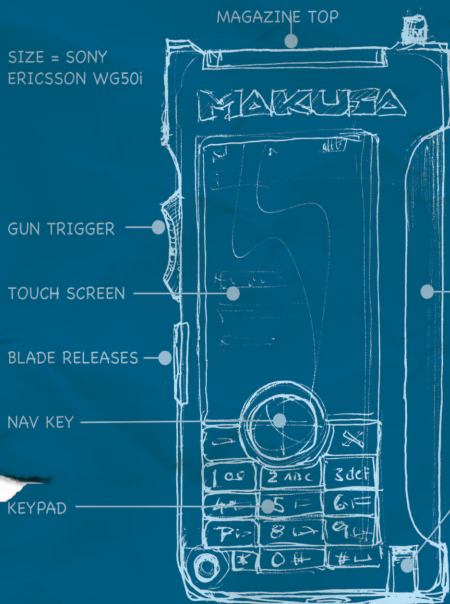
# contraband

TITLE - CONTRABAND

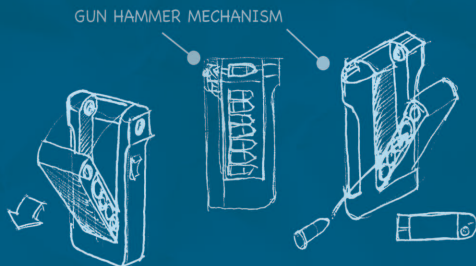
WRITER - THOMAS J BEHE

ARTIST - PHIL ELLIOTT

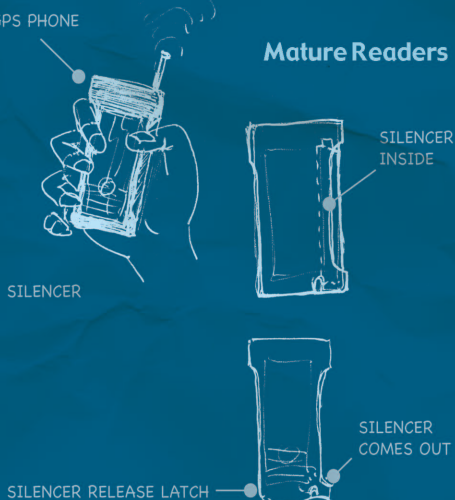
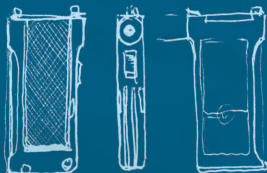
PUBLISHER - SLAVE LABOR GRAPHICS



FRONT VIEW



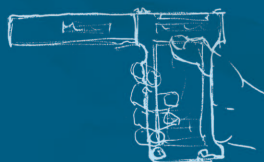
MAGAZINE OPENS  
AND HOLDS 6 BULLETS



SCREW TREAD

SILENCER SCREWS INTO  
TOP OPENING

COMPLETED GUN









# contraband




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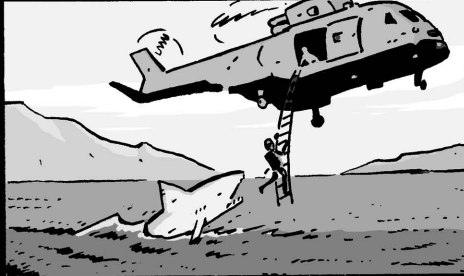
Contraband website - [www.contrabandcomic.com](http://www.contrabandcomic.com)

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MY MOBILE STILL GETS CLOGGED WITH SPAM.

TEXT MESSAGES. MMS. VIDEOS.

THE MATES SENT ME ALL THE CLASSICS. THAT GREAT WHITE SHARK,  
THE ONE SNAPPING AT THE SOLDIER HANGING FROM THE HELICOPTER.



THAT MULLETT-HAIRED KID TIED TO A POLE OVER THE FOUR-  
LANE HIGHWAY. AN ABSOLUTE CLASSIC.

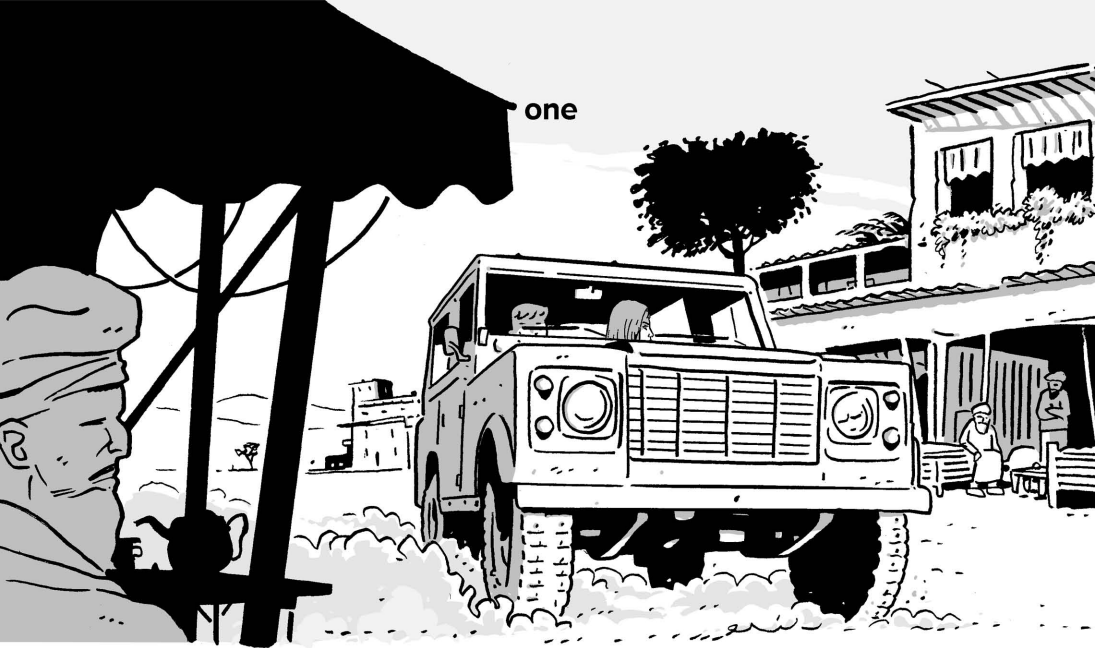


...AND THAT SERBIAN GENERAL WHOSE TROOPS BLASTED BULLETS INTO  
A THOUSAND VILLAGERS A COUPLE DECADES BACK.



I'M SURE THEY WOULD HAVE ALL BEEN TOP RANKED VIDEOS ON  
CONTRABAND IF IT WAS AROUND BACK THEN. BUT IT WASN'T.

PEOPLE SURE WATCH THAT MOBILE CHANNEL THESE DAYS. AND RIGHT NOW,  
THEY'RE ALL RAVING ABOUT ONE THING...A VIDEO OF MY GIRLFRIEND..



FEBRUARY 1, AFGHANISTAN.



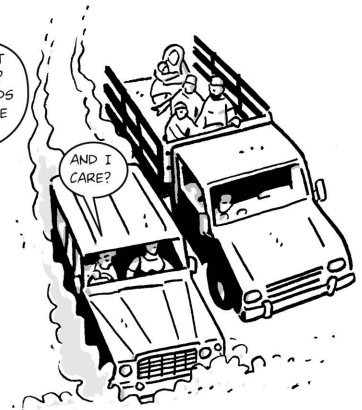
CHARLOTTE WORKED AS A MERCENARY IN AFGHANISTAN, EARNING FIVE FIGURES EACH WEEK HELPING UK FORCES CONTROL KEY URBAN HOT-SPOTS. AS TROOPS WERE GRADUALLY PULLED FROM THE REGION, SPECIAL FORCES CONTRACTORS LIKE HER WERE BROUGHT IN SPECIFICALLY TO STIR UNREST.



THE LOGIC WAS THAT IF KEY RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL FACTIONS SPENT THEIR SPARSE RESOURCES FIGHTING EACH OTHER...



...THEY'D FOCUS LESS ON ATTACKING WESTERN TROOPS.





THIS MEANT HIRED GUNS LIKE CHARLOTTE WERE EXTREMELY VULNERABLE TO AN ATTACK FROM ENEMY MILITANTS....



LOCAL POLICE...EVEN NORMAL CIVILIANS.

PRETTY MUCH EVERYONE.



BUT WITH ALL THE SCHEMES THEY HAD GOING OVER THERE...



...GUESS YOU CAN'T SAY THEY DIDN'T DESERVE IT.



I SAY WE LEAVE HIM.

NO FUCKING CHANCE!

ESPECIALLY TUCKER.



I'M DEAD KEEN TO CAPTURE THAT SON OF A BITCH.



BY THE FINAL DAY OF CHARLOTTE'S CONTRACT, TUCKER HAD OVER A THOUSAND HOURS OF MOBILE VIDEO FOOTAGE.

CLOSE-RANGE COMBAT CASUALTIES. GRUESOME RETALIATORY ATTACK GORE. ROADKILL FROM ROADSIDE BOMBINGS. ALL SORTS OF LIVE LEADER EXECUTIONS

STIMULATION IN THE SUBURBS - NOT LIKE THAT BBQ-BURNING ROUTINE MY MATES GET STUCK IN BACK HOME...

SHHHH!

THOSE BOYS ARE GETTING OLD FAST, DOING THAT LONGING-FOR-HIGH-SCHOOL CRAP AS THEIR AGING PARANOIA SETS IN.

EXTREME LOGO CAPS, MULTI-PLAYER CONSOLES, BOOM-BOXES PUMPING OUT G'N'R ACROSS THEIR TINY LAWNS.

CHARLOTTE SAID TUCKER SUFFERS FROM SOME FREAK FOOTAGE FETISH.

TUCKER, WOULD YOU SHUT IT?

?!

HE WAS ADDICTED TO POPULATING HIS MOBILE ARCHIVE, SNIFFING OUT ANY KIND OF TINY SKIRMISH, STREET SCRAPs, FAMILY QUARRELS, MINOR INCIDENTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

TUCKER?

TA-TATA-TATT  
TTA ATA-RA



BUT LIKE MOST OTHER ADDICTS, HIS BEHAVIOUR INEVITABLY ENDANGERED THOSE AROUND HIM.....



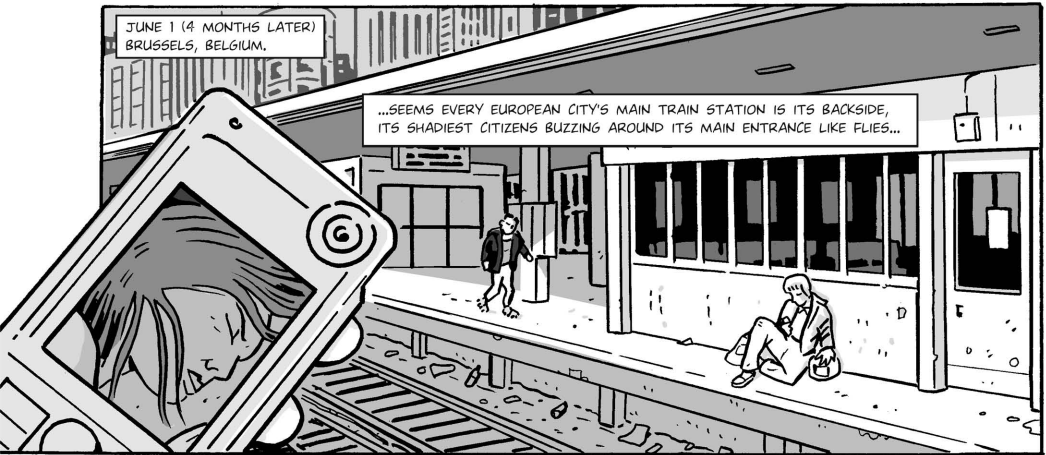
EVEN THE MOST HEAVILY-ARMED, WELL-TRAINED ARMY GOONS NEVER DARED ENTER TUCKERS' FAVOURITE NEIGHBORHOODS.

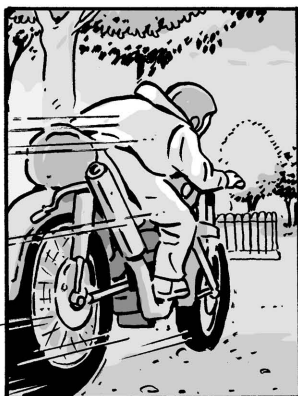
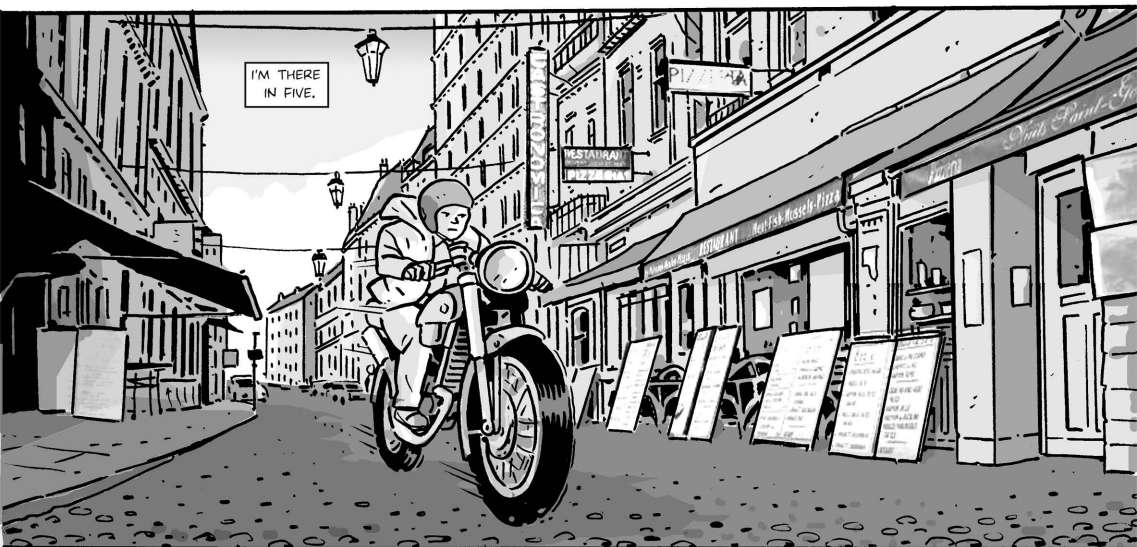
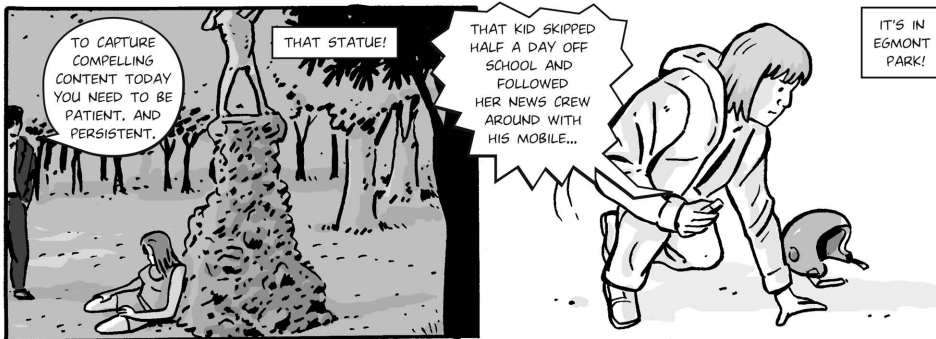


I ALWAYS KNEW THIS CLIP COULD MAKE CHARLOTTE FAMOUS...



...I NEVER THOUGHT I'D NEED IT TO HELP ME FIND HER AGAIN.





### three

MAY 1, LONDON.

I FIRST HEARD OF CHARLOTTE WHILE WORKING AT A CHURCH CONVERSION INTERNET CAFE IN NORTH LONDON.

IT WAS STACKED WITH TONS OF TRENDY NGO ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT PARAPHENALIA. IRONIC ALLIED-WAR SUPPORTING STICKERS, BORING BOB MARLEY WALLETS AND ORANGE RUBBER HOSES FOR BONGS, OR MAYBE HOME GREENHOUSE IRRIGATION.

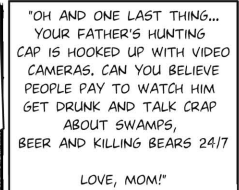
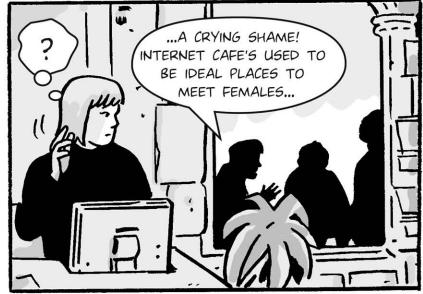
ABOVE THE CASH, A HALF-BAKED CATERPILLAR PROMOTED DRIED MAGIC MUSHROOMS OUTLINING LEGAL LOOPHOLES ON WHY CUSTOMERS CAN BUY THE PSYCHEDELIC FUNGUS. BELOW, A RUSTED COMIC BOOK STAND SPORTING SEVEN STACKS OF MARIJUANA MAGAZINES, EACH TITLE FEATURING A FULL-PAGE PROVOCATIVE CENTERFOLD OF ITS "BUD OF THE MONTH".

MY RAGGED BOHO-DRESSED MIDDLE-AGED MANAGER HID IN THE BACK OFFICE SMOKING CHEAP EGYPTIAN FAGS SHE'D SMUGGLED IN AFTER HER MONTHLY DIVE TRIPS TO DAHAB.

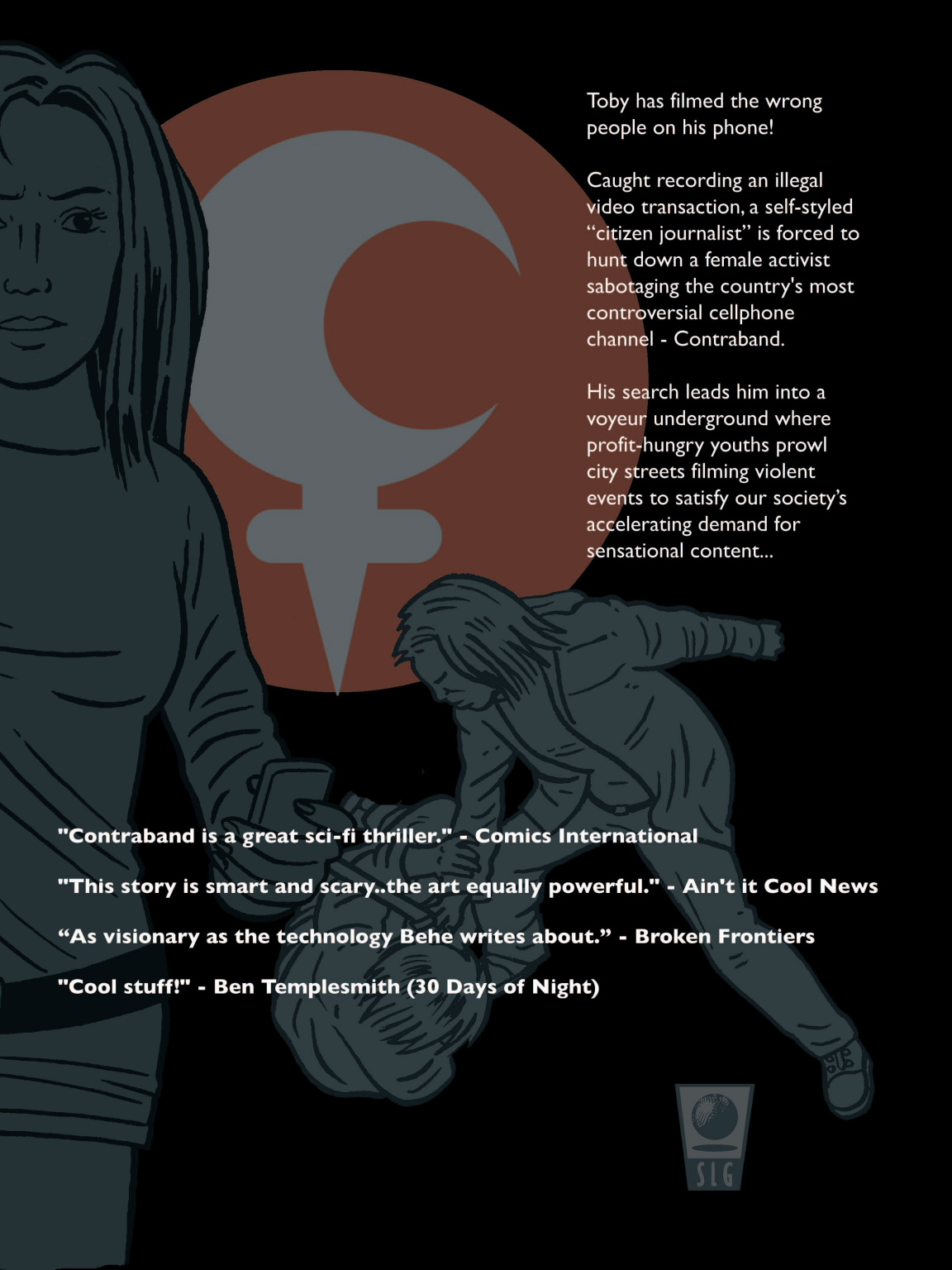
IT WAS PROBABLY A COOL PLACE A HALF-DOZEN YEARS BACK. TRENDY PATRONS. SOLID STAFF. A PROPER SCENE.

BUT SINCE THE MOBILE'S PERVERSIVE MARKET PENETRATION, HARDLY ANYONE USES PCs IN JOINTS LIKE THESE ANY MORE.









Toby has filmed the wrong people on his phone!

Caught recording an illegal video transaction, a self-styled "citizen journalist" is forced to hunt down a female activist sabotaging the country's most controversial cellphone channel - Contraband.

His search leads him into a voyeur underground where profit-hungry youths prowls city streets filming violent events to satisfy our society's accelerating demand for sensational content...

**"Contraband is a great sci-fi thriller." - Comics International**

**"This story is smart and scary..the art equally powerful." - Ain't it Cool News**

**"As visionary as the technology Behe writes about." - Broken Frontiers**

**"Cool stuff!" - Ben Templesmith (30 Days of Night)**

