

Razor Uncut

"Strength in Numbers"

Part 3

by Mike Shoemaker

Page 1

Exterior evening view of *Erotica*. Roger is lurking in the shadows outside the club, in a neighboring alleyway. In the foreground, a female silhouette (Razor's) lurks, watching.

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Panel 1 - Roger is spun around by a gloved hand.

Roger - "What the hell---"

Panel 2 - Roger is pinned to the wall by Razor, her blades poised to gouge his eyes out.

Roger - "Easy! Take it easy!"

Razor - "Who are you?"

Roger - "I-I'm Roger Downs, a cop!"

Panel 3 - Razor's relaxed her grip, but still has him sighted.

Roger - "I saw two men carry some women in, they were dressed like you. Were they--"

Razor - "Dead? No. Two guys knocked them out and took them. I think they were looking for me."

Razor - "Now, you've got two seconds to tell me who you are and what the hell you're doing here."

Panel 4 - More discussion. Razor has released him, but her blades are still poised.

Roger - "My name is Roger Downs, I was assigned to investigate vigilante activities in Queen City. I started with you. I believe the women in there are copycats of yours."

Razor - "I know. They ran with me last night. We were meeting again this evening when they got jumped."

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Panel 1 - Razor has lowered her blades.

Roger - "Okay, so some of this is fitting together. They killed some gangbangers a couple of nights ago, one of whom was the brother of the guy who owns this club."

Roger - "He thought *you* did it, and brought in a couple of hired guns to take you out. He doesn't realize that *they* were the culprits--yet."

Panel 2 - More discussion.

Razor - "Who're the goons he hired?"

Roger - "They call themselves Hack 'n Slash, and they mostly work the West Coast. They're damned good, as you saw."

Roger - "Reich's a real hothead, and if we're gonna perform a rescue, we'll have to act fast."

Panel 3 - More discussion.

Razor - "Why don't you just call in a SWAT team?"

Roger - "Well, see, that wouldn't be a great idea. The raid might get the hostages killed, and would definitely land your friends in jail. Some people--*big* people--don't want that to happen."

Panel 4 - Razor and Roger begin down the alleyway toward the back of the building.

Razor - "Great. The one time I *want* the cops around, and I can't have 'em."

Razor - "Okay, if you wanna help, follow me. And try to stay out of the way."

Roger - "Sure. Would it help if I told you I was honored to be working with you?"

Razor - "Oh, knock it off."

Double-page spread of Jen, Rebecca, and Janis, kneeling/lying before Reich and Julia, with Hack 'n Slash standing in the background. Four other goons in suits stand watching.

Reich - "Shit, I just wanted *one* psychotic babe with blades, and now I've got *three*. In-fucking-credible. Do you sickos buy off the rack or something?"

Reich - "Okay, let's try this again. One of you killed my brother, and you're going to *die* for that. But you can make things a *lot* easier on your friends by owning up to it."

Jen - "Go to hell."

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Panel 1 - Reich backhands her; her wig and glasses go flying.

FX - *SLAP!!!*

Reich - "Oh, goody! I get to beat 'em some!"

Reich - "What the--"

Panel 2 - Jen is now undisguised. Reich's thugs are removing Rebecca and Janis' wigs and visors as well.

Reich - "Well, isn't *this* special! I recognize you--you're that reporter! The one who covers the vigilante deaths!"

Reich - "This is *rich!* You've been covering your own hits! I *like* that!"

Panel 3 - Reich is kneeling before Jen, smirking.

Reich - "So, what's the deal? You some kind of feminazi whacko? Or is this a career move?"

Jen - "Fuck off."

Reich - "Come on, at least *try* some snappy patter! I thought you hero types went to school for that."

Panel 4 - Reich is pointing to the girls; Hack 'n Slash close in.

Reich - "I can tell this is gonna take some persuasion, and I got a couple of guys who specialize in that."

Reich - "Hack. Slash. Front and center."

Slash - "You got it."

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Panel 1 - Reich is kneeling down over Jen, as she regards him, tight-lipped. Hack holds her back by the hair, his blade at her throat.

Reich - "You know what this is all about, really? Cause and effect, that's what. I mean, for years your generation watched all those Bugs Bunny cartoons, Starsky and Hutch, stuff like that, and you figured violence doesn't have consequences."

Reich - "So, you kill my brother, and figure the credits'll roll, end of picture. On with the next episode."

Panel 2 - Reich's standing back, hands on his hips.

Reich - "Well, I got news for you. For every action, there's an equal and opposite re-action. That's where I come in. I'm sorta like the other side of the scale tipping back, or the other shoe dropping."

Reich - "In other words, *I* am consequences."

Panel 3 - Jen is smiling.

Jen - "Sweet. I'm getting a lecture on the effects of violence from a wiseguy."

Reich - "Watch it, bitch. The longer I talk, the longer you breath, understand?"

Panel 4 - Reich is pointing at them.

Reich - "Okay, here's the deal. I'm counting to five, and if I don't hear somebody say, 'I did it', then I'm picking one of you and cutting off a finger. Then we do it again. And again, until I get a confession."

Reich - "Let's take it from the top."

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Panel 1 - Razor and Roger are evaluating the rear entrance, which has a couple of factory-issue thugs guarding it. They have their arms crossed.

Reich (caption) - "One...."

Razor - "Two goons, and I'm sure they're packing. We need to take 'em out quietly."

Roger - "Yeah. Any ideas?"

Panel 2 - Razor, coming at the reader, blades extended.

Razor - "Just one."

Panel 3 - They wheel, drawing, as she sprints between them.

Thug 1 - "Jesus!"

Thug 2 - "Christ!"

Panel 4 - Their bodies hit the pavement; their heads land wetly beside them.

FX - *SCHLUP!!! SCHLUP!!!*

Panel 5 - Roger stands looking down at the corpses as Razor regards the door, blades dripping.

Roger - "Yuck."

Razor - "Candyass."

Razor - "C'mon, let's keep moving."

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Panel 1 - Razor and Roger stand in a narrow hallway, with framed posters of past "featured performers" lining the walls (Mandy Melons, Jenny Jiggs, etc.)

Razor - "Any idea where we are?"

Roger - "I'm guessing the dressing rooms should be up ahead. Reich's got the place closed, so we should be alone back here."

Panel 2 - They round a corner; standing there are three thugs, who are equally surprised.

Roger - "Uh...."

Razor - "You were saying?"

Panel 3 - Razor dices one man's hand off at the wrist, sending his gun flying, while Roger tackles two around the waist.

Handless thug - "YEEEEEEAAAAGH!!!"

Roger - "Razor! Get 'em!"

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Panel 1 - Razor backhands her blades across the handless thug's neck, while the other thugs pile onto Roger. He's fighting to keep possession of his gun.

Handless thug - "GUKKK!!!"

Roger - "Uh, Razor--"

Razor - "Good grief...."

Panel 2 - Razor jerks one of them off by the hair, throwing him onto his back, while Roger rolls on top of his assailant.

Razor - "Move it, loser!"

Roger - "Raaaargh!!!"

Panel 3 - Roger pistol whips one across the jaw, while Razor impales the other.

FX1 - SHUKKK!!!

FX2 - BRAK!!!

Roger - "Asshole!"

Panel 4 - Roger and Razor stand over the men, surveying their handiwork.

Roger - "Thanks. Y'know, mine's still breathing...."

Razor - "I'm not impressed."

Razor - "C'mon, I think I see the main stage entrance."

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Panel 1 - Back in the club, Reich is pointing at Jen. Julia is approaching the captives.

Reich - "Okay, no takers. We start with Miss Congeniality here--"

Julia - "Waitasecond, hon. I think I know a better way."

Panel 2 - Julia is standing behind Jen, caressing her cheek as she gently pulls Jen's head back by the hair. Jen is looking up at her in surprise. As they watch through subsequent panels, the men are smiling and amused (except Hack, who seems to be stunned that all this is going on). In all cases, situate Julia in such a way that she can be handing each girl a handcuff key.

Julia - "Oh, yeah...we can have some *real* fun...."

Julia - "Just tell him what he wants to know, sugar. It's that easy."

Panel 3 - Julia is crouched behind her now, pulled very close, arching Jen's breasts out and up with her own, cupping Jen's right breast with a hand. She's tugging on her ear with her teeth. Julia's left hand is behind Jen at the level of her cuffed hands.

Jen - "Oooh!"

Julia - "*There's* a tender spot...."

Panel 4 - Julia has migrated to Rebecca, and is crouched down astride her legs, kissing her as she pulls back on her hair.

Julia - "*Mmmmm*...."

Rebecca - "*Mmmmmff!*"

Panel 5 - Julia's groping Janis as Reich moves forward.

Reich - "Okay, okay, babe, that's enough. I'm enjoyin' the show, but it's obvious they aren't gonna sing."

Reich - "Hack, Slash--take care of `em."

Razor (off-panel) - "*Reich.*"

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Razor stands behind them on the main stage, draped in stripper-like fashion on the main pole.

Reich - "RAZOR?!?"

Razor - "Leave 'em alone, it's *me* you want."

Razor - "Come 'n get it."

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Panel 1 - Reich, Hack 'n Slash, and some goons are preparing to advance, when their attention is diverted behind them.

Reich - "Jesus, it's like a fire sale on psycho amazons!"

Reich - "You made a *big* mistake--

Jen (off-panel) - "Did she?"

Panel 2 - Jen, Rebecca, and Janis now stand before him, discarding their handcuffs. Julia stands to one side, smiling.

Jen - "I'd say the only one who's made a mistake here is *you*."

Jen - "And I'm betting that four psycho amazons can take you and your goons anyday."

Panel 3 - Reich assumes a commanding posture as he points toward Razor and the girls. Hack 'n Slash charge at Jen and company, while his goons move toward Razor.

Reich - "What, do I gotta send you idiots a telegram or something? *Get 'em!!!*

Slash - "Right on!"

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Panel 1 - Slash takes a wild swing at Jen, who ducks under it.

FX - *SWISHHH!!!*

Slash - "Stand still, you--"

Jen - "Yeah, right!"

Panel 2 - Jen lands a side kick to his chest, staggering him back.

FX - *CHUD!!!*

Jen - *Haaaaaiiii!!!*

Panel 3 - Razor dives between two of the armed thugs, catching one of them across the chest with her blades. One of the thugs is drawing a bead on Razor from behind with his piece.

FX - *SLASHHH!!!*

Thug 1 - "Aaaagh!!!"

Panel 4 - The thug sighting Razor pitches forward as Roger nails him from behind with a slug in his back. Meanwhile, Razor is holding a goon around the neck and impaling him from the rear.

FX - *BLAM!!!*

Razor - "Thanks!"

Roger - "Don't mention it."

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Panel 1 - Rebecca jumps up from her perch on a table as Slash chops it in two with his blade.

FX - *CRASH!!!*

Slash - "This time it's for keeps, toots! Take it like a man!"

Rebecca - "Oh, you are *so* macho!"

Panel 2 - She lands a kick to his jaw on the descent.

FX - *BIFF!!!*

Slash - "Ooof!!!"

Rebecca - "Take *that* like a man, jerkoff!"

Panel 3 - Janis hits a thug with a double-upstroke of her blades, with grisly results.

FX - *SCHLUCK!!!*

Thug - "Uuuuuuuagggh!!!"

Panel 4 - Roger puts three slugs into Hack's chest, staggering him back.

FX - *BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!*

Hack - "Oooooof!!!"

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Panel 1 - From outside, as Hack flies out of a window.

FX - CHEEEESH!!!

Panel 2 - Slash charges out through the window; he's pointing back at them.

Slash - "Y-you *bitches*!!! We-we're gonna get you! I mean it!"

Slash - "Hang on, bro! I'm comin'!"

Panel 3 - Roger and Razor are approaching the window. Jen is already there.

Razor - "Damn! They're gone! Did you kill him?"

Roger - "No, I don't think so. They had some kind of body armor on."

Panel 4 - They turn back around; Roger, Razor, Janis, Jen, and Rebecca are on one side, and Reich is facing them with a handgun. He looks extremely upset.

Reich - "I guess you think you've won, don'tcha? You probably think it's Miller Time."

Reich - "Guess again."

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Panel 1 - Reich draws back the hammer.

FX - *K-KLICK!!!*

Reich - "I'm gonna put so much lead in you--"

FX - *BLAM!!!*

Panel 2 - Reich staggers to his knees, a blood spot on his chest at sternum level, the gun falling free from his hand. His eyes are wide and his mouth is open slightly as he realizes he's been shot. Partially visible behind him on the main stage is Julia.

Reich - "Uuuuk...."

Panel 3 - Reich falls flat, and Julia stands on the main stage, holding a smoking gun (purloined from a dead thug).

Panel 4 - The others have moved closer.

Julia - "I'm officer Julia Westin, Queen City undercover. I've been inside Reich's outfit for about a year now."

Julia - "We were gonna bust him for some other things, but I guess that's kinda moot now."

Roger - "You might say that."

Panel 5 - Jen is speaking with Julia.

Jen - "Thanks for slipping us those keys. You got to us right in time."

Julia - "Well, I had to do *something*. I wasn't going to just let you get maimed."

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Panel 1 - Roger speaks with Julia.

Roger - "I'd heard we had somebody on the inside, but I never thought he--*she*--would be so close to him."

Julia - "It took some doing, but I got there."

Julia - "So...what now?"

Panel 2 - He's jerking his thumb back at the girls.

Roger - "Well, they get away, and we stay back to fill out statements."

Julia - "My thinking exactly."

Panel 3 - Razor is talking to Jen.

Razor - "Look, I want to apologize. They wouldn't have gotten the drop on you if I hadn't been late."

Jen - "No, don't apologize. We're big girls, we have to be prepared for things like that."

Jen - "But it *did* get me to thinking. We need to split up."

Panel 4 - Razor looks a little surprised.

Razor - "You sure? That's not what you thought last night."

Jen - "No, but it occurred to me that all this was because of something we did. And I don't know how many more crime bosses we might've pissed off by what we've been doing. I don't want to drag you into a situation like this again."

Panel 5 - Roger's entering the frame now.

Jen - "It would also be a good idea for us to change our costumes, too. But I'm sorta dry on ideas."

Roger - "Well, actually...that may be where I come in."

Jen - "Oh, really?"

Panel 6 - More discussion.

Roger - "Yeah. See, there are people with some very specific opinions about what you do."

Roger - "I think they can solve the costume dilemma...."

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Panel 1 - Exterior view of an abandoned factory, with criss-crossing beams and towering smokestacks.

Panel 2 - Within a dingy, dilapidated, trash-hewn storage building, a pack of bikers in leather, chains, and related accoutrement mill around a long table. It's crowded with beakers, bunsen burners, tubes, and bubbling bottles. In the foreground, biker leader Scar is deep in discussion with his close associate, Snake.

Scar - "So dere I wuz, arguin' about da allegorical symbolism of Kafka's *Metamorphosis* when some yokel starts tryin' to tell me it was supposed ta be taken literally! Ha!"

Snake - "Jeez! So whudja do?"

Scar - "I popped 'im a good one!"

Panel 3 - Scar is gesturing toward the drug factory.

Scar - "So how's production comin'?"

Snake - "Well, we got enough raw material for fifty keys of pure coke, an' we can cut enough talc and fake stuff in to spread that out to a hundred."

Panel 4 - An explosion blows out a nearby wall, knocking them flying.

Scar - "Aw-right. Let's get that stuff bagged an'--"

FX - *BUH-WHAMMM!!!*

Panel 5 - Scar and Snake gaze up at the source of the blast. Part of Jen's shapely thigh is visible.

Jen (off-panel) - "Good evening, gentlemen. Allow us to introduce ourselves."

Jen, Rebecca, and Janis stand before them, visible through the huge hole. They wear blue, long-sleeved half-tops, with a v-necked collar that dips to show some cleavage. Blue tights are held up by a black utility/ammo belt, and they wear tight black elbow-length gloves and thigh-high boots. Yellow pinstriping runs down the visible portions of the arms and legs. Mirrored wrap-around shades conceal their eyes. A badge-like insignia is affixed to their belt buckles. Rebecca is holding a huge, clip-fed, comic-style grenade gun, smoking at the barrel. Jen is packing a clip-fed assault shotgun, and Janis holds a huge handgun and small hand-chainsaw, specially modified for close-quarters combat, to include a serrated chain.

Jen - "We're the Blue Knights. And we're not here to read you your rights..."

Jen - "We're just here to lay down the law."

The End