

FEATURING THE GRAPHIC NOVEL REQUIEM #3: DRACULA!

JANUARY 2005

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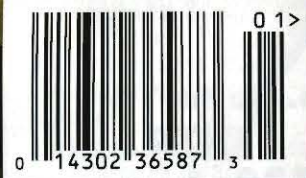
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**THE ADULT ILLUSTRATED
FANTASY MAGAZINE**



RETAILER: DISPLAY UNTIL JANUARY 4, 2005



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◀ **Illustration by Grant Cross**
To find out more about Grant's work, contact him at:
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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Man do I love the cover of this issue! It really has a bit of a different feel to what we normally run, and I thank Gary Freeman for creating such a knockout piece. Actually I'm hoping you all have noticed all the new talent we've brought to the covers as they always bring the sales we need to keep things going around here. It was a thrill to see that fans didn't shy away from the Beet cover (July 04), James Ryman's killer piece (Summer 04), or Tariq Raheem's beauty (November 04)! Looking forward to exploring more talent there in the future.

So here it is 2005 - sort of... I mentioned in my November publisher's note (which hit stands in September), I write these a bit in advance so you'll be reading this in late November while I write it in October! Crazy to think by the time you read this we'll have a new President, or the same one... I hope you guys got out there and voted and I think in these times, this one was a critical one for all of us to be heard. It's been interesting to follow the debates, I watched the third and final one last night, and it's been great to have the chance to see the "freedom of speech" in full swing with films like Fahrenheit 9/11. With that thought, I'll just wish you all a great 2005 and we'll talk more about it in the next issue.

As for this issue, there's A LOT of fans out there that will be thrilled to see the third installment of "Requiem" in the following pages. Not since we started running Frezzato's "Keepers of the Maser" a number of years ago, have we gotten so much fan mail on a series. By the way, we should see the final "Keepers" story late 2005, and have just heard the Mr. Frezzato himself has committed to come to the San Diego Comic Con this year! Very cool.

In the gallery our old friend Chris Achilleos gives us a sneak peek at his upcoming new book, "Amazona"! Looking forward to adding that book to my collection, and we promise to get Chris back on the cover soon. I'll let you know when the book ships and where to find it once I get the details.

One of the coolest new things we're adding to this issue is the first installment of an all new "Mudwogs" series produced for Heavy Metal by the AMAZING Art Suydam! It's been far too long since we've had the good fortune to have Art back in the magazine and we're celebrating by adding an extra "Mudwogs Gallery" section to kick it off. We'll be serializing the new graphic novel over the next eight issues or so, and look forward to your thoughts on it. Welcome back, Art!

I also want to give a special welcome to Grant Cross who got the "Featured Artist" section - he worked real hard to get there, and we're glad to have him. As always, I picked out some fun "Shorts" for you, with titles like "Six Seconds in Hell" and "Sins of the Father", how could you go wrong? You'll also find the new original works "Sepie's Garden" alongside a classic, unpublished in the states, rare Luis Royo story - there'll be more of those in the future too!

My final thanks go to S.C. Ringgenberg and Karl Kofod for their contributions. I'll sign off by reminding you all we've got five, yes count them, "FIVE" killer 2005 calendars that just hit the store shelves and the Heavy Metal web-site store! Check'em out, and I'll be back yakking at ya soon.

Best,

Kim Eastman

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear H.M.,

Several H.M. editions over the past few years have had Frezzato's "Keeper of the Maser" stories in them. How do those stories relate to the Maser series books available for purchase from H.M.? Are the stories published in the H.M. magazine edition the same as the books for sale? Is it a cut down story? Is it a story set "between" the other stories? Similarly, was the recent piece, "The Regulator" by Moreno a special H.M. version? Is there a large piece of work somewhere? It might be useful to have this explained inside the pages of H.M. magazine or perhaps on the web-site. Stephen

Dear Stephen,

In addition to the printed version we run in the magazine, we also print a "hardcover" version for the collectors market. It is the same version. The same goes for all the other stories we publish in both the magazine and hardcover versions. "The Regulator" is an ongoing series of roughly four books. We published the second installment in 2004 and will do part three in 2005. As of this date we have no plans of issuing a hardcover of it.

Dear H.M.,

Every now and then I get a bit down when I get a H.M. edition. Galactic Geographic is interesting to some people I suppose, but it's not my thing. A number of comics have good artwork, but are poorly translated or have weak or unfinished storylines. I wonder is it all worth it? And then along comes "The Regulator". OMFG is all I can say about this incredible artist and the fantastic universe he has created with this story. Reading "The Regulator" was like discovering Richard Corben for the first time so many years ago. Cannot wait to see more of Moreno/Corbeyran!

Stephen

Dear Stephen

Generally I think the translations are pretty good - we mainly use a writer who has lived in Paris for 30 years and owns his own publishing company. I think some of the problems could lie in the original writing. Yes, "The Regulator" is fast becoming one of our hottest new series just behind "Requiem"! Loved the Corben comparison - Heavy Metal is where I first found Corben as well!

Dear H.M.,

I've been reading H.M. since Volume 1, Number 1. Now, 27 years later, I must comment on the most profound, disturbing and possibly prophetic feature I have read yet. "Endocosmia" by Alex Ebel, in I believe the September 2003 issue. "Endocosmia" is an exquisitely written and illustrated analogy how humankind may destroy earth or - hang on - natu-

rally consume it to migrate to outer space to consume yet another planet, and another and another... for eternity. In other words, Ebel presents the thought provoking philosophical notion that self indulgence, causing environmental destruction of host planets, is part and parcel of life's evolutionary process. It should be noted, though, that it is the thinkers and doers who escape to perpetuate the species leaving the indulgers behind to perish. Oh, jeez, not again! Thanks for publishing this great and provocative tale.

Stan

Dear Stan,

Glad to get a note from you, and I'm thrilled you liked "Endocosmia"! I love all the short stories I pick for each issue, but some of them really do rise above the rest.

Dear H.M.,

It is great to see each new issue of H.M. I guess you could call me an "addicted" collector of H.M. material-movies, books posters, cards, every issue of H.M. (in mint condition) as well as promo products and the like. The special editions are welcomed supplements to the regular issues- keep up the fantastic work. Through H.M. I have been exposed to many artists like Olivia, Frazetta, Boris and many others who's artistic work can be further seen and explored. All in all it has been a great journey over the many years and may it never end.

Janna

Dear Janna,

Thanks a billion for the note! You're in good company over here for sure. I love my job, and I love getting the chance to turn others on to the kind of stories and art that blew me away when I was a kid!

Dear H.M.,

I've been collecting H.M. since 1989. I did buy an entire box from a comic shop in Winnipeg for almost \$200. It was full of most of the late 1970's and 1980's issues. That was nice. Anyhow, the only thing that is bugging me is that I really miss that whole "Striptease" section and the little taste of lowbrow art you guys used to have. Other than that you guys are cool.

Greg

Dear Greg,

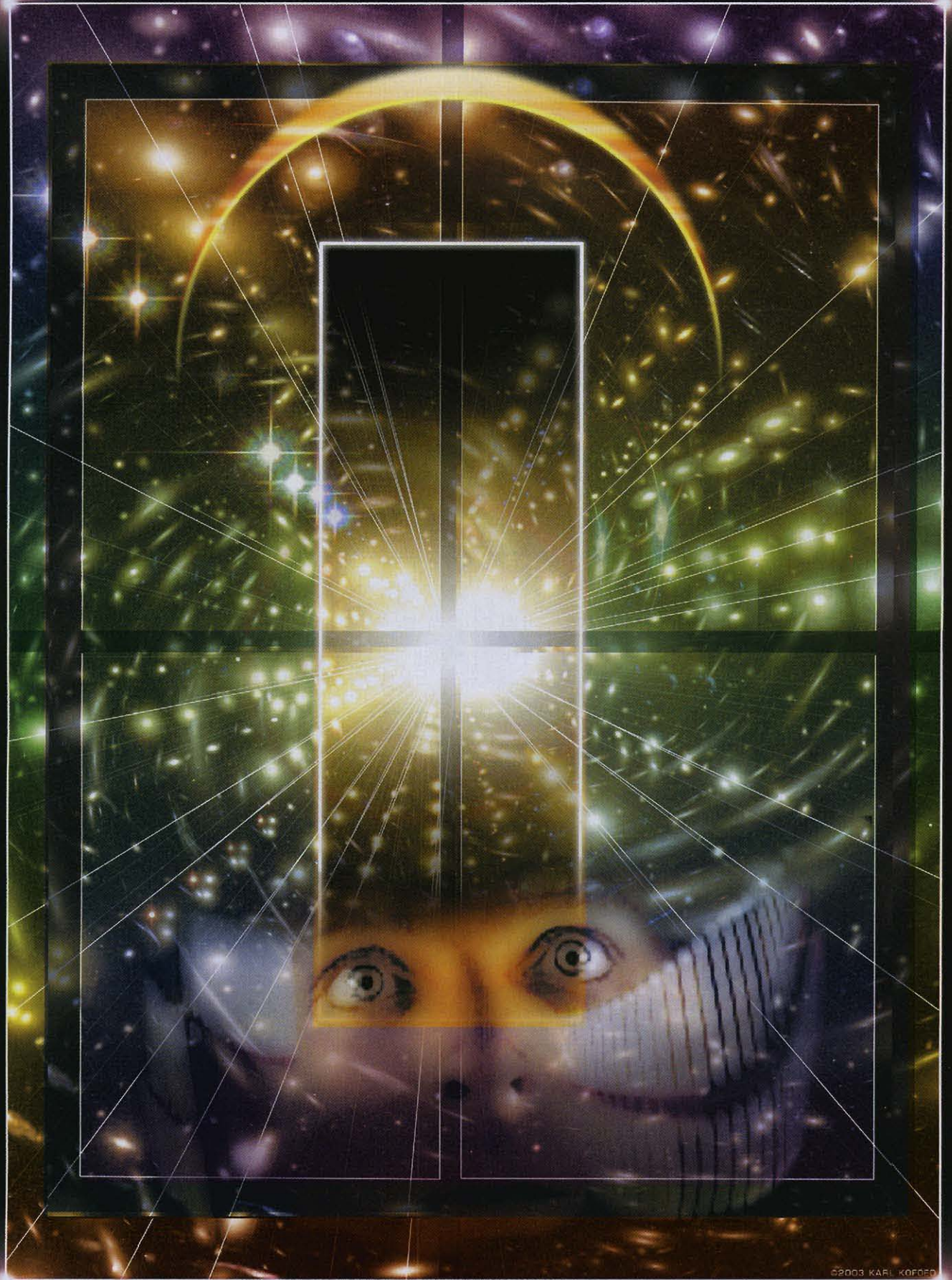
I really do miss that section as well! My good friend Mark Martin used to edit and compile that section before he moved on to other things. We've talked about collecting them all in a big hardcover but keep setting it aside for other new projects that come along. I'll rethink the idea.

Check out our web-site at: www.heavymetal.com

W H A T D A V E S A W

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W H A T D A V E S A W

GALACTIC GEOGRAPHIC GALLERY

WHAT DAVE SAW

Work of art recalls film that sparked a generation and a space program.

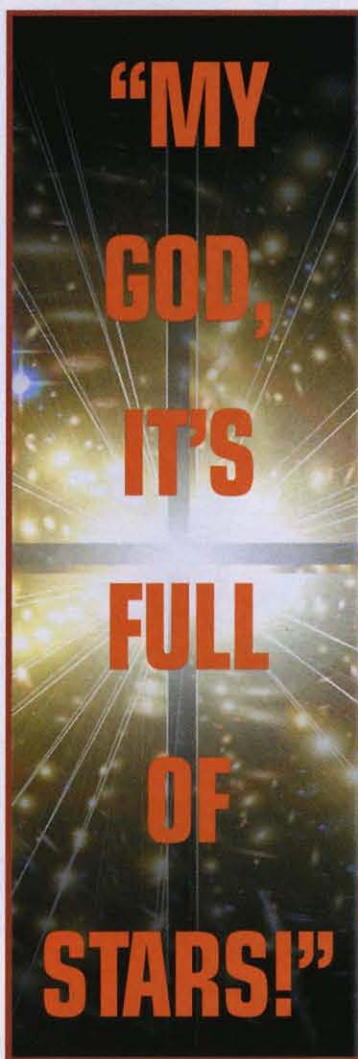
Few motion pictures have inspired more speculation than Stanley Kubrick's groundbreaking 2001-A Space Odyssey produced by MGM in the year 1968. Painting with a stream of deftly placed photons, the famous neo-classical artist Jusk Legiac created "What Dave Saw" to illustrate something not shown to audiences viewing the movie.

In the film a lone astronaut, floating in space, confronts an unknown intelligence via a featureless black slab which is a gateway to the universe. At least that's the interpretation most often made by film historians. All we know is inferred from Dave, the astronaut's, awestruck gaze and his famous line; "My God, it's full of stars!"

"The beauty of art, and the reason I paint," says the artist of his work, "is to capture images of the mind. Imagination is a magical gift we all share. With it we see what cannot be seen."

Following this theme the painter has conjured many memorable images. But arguably the most famous of all his works is "What Dave Saw," reproduced on the opposite page.

The painting has become Legiac's most requested piece. But the artist refuses to part with the original. "Perhaps it is my most personal work," he explains. "When I look into Dave's eyes I see the expression of a child. When we face the unknown we are all like



Dave, like children. Always I try to see the universe through child's eyes. It keeps me young and inspired to paint."

When asked if he is breaking an artist's rule by revealing what the film maker had chosen to keep secret, Legiac tells of a childhood ruined by a crippling disease. "I was a lonely kid with movies as best friends. I'd borrow them from our local data center. When I saw "2001" it sparked my imagination and made me want to paint what the man saw, not solve the film's mystery. After all, a picture is just a moment in time. Life is more like a movie. And it's through living that life's mysteries are revealed."

These days the painter lives in semi-retirement, using a light-pen to reveal his wonders. He scoffs at the notion that technology has bypassed the artist. "Nonsense," laughs Legiac. "It gives me better tools to use in my work!"

Outspoken and light-hearted, Legiac makes a very good point. Thinking young has been proven by science to extend longevity.

Yet why this happens remains another of life's unsolved mysteries.

Perhaps it is a good for all of us to try to see our universe and ourselves as children. As Legiac might say; "In wonder we are made, in wonder we grow, and in wonder we first reached for the stars."

KARL KOFOED – GALACTIC GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



GALLERY

AMAZONA CHRIS ACHILLÉOS



Chris Achilléos has created some of the best-loved fantasy and glamour art of the past thirty years. His work ranges from Taarna, the famous *Heavy Metal* heroine, through classic *Conan* covers and Amazonian women to his more recent fetish paintings, all the time experimenting with new techniques and different materials.



Achilléos was born in Cyprus and later moved to London where, after leaving art college in 1969, he embarked on a career as a commercial artist. His work to date has included numerous book covers, such as *Conan*, *Doctor Who* and *Star Trek*, video sleeves, CD covers, film design work, erotic pin-ups, movie posters and much more.

Chris has had three previous internationally bestselling collections of his art published (*Beauty and the Beast*, *Sirens* and *Medusa*) and this Fall, Titan Books is publishing Chris's eagerly awaited new book — *Amazona*. In *Amazona* you'll find a stunning selection of his previously uncollected artwork from the past fifteen years.

Amazona presents the erotic pin-ups that made him famous, paintings inspired by Greek mythology, Tolkien and Robert E. Howard, and Chris's commissions for role-playing and computer games.

"I am constantly on the move, creatively," says Chris. "I have learned to use all kinds of mediums and materials in my work, from air-brushing with inks and acrylics to watercolour and gouache, to oils. I have even painted with fabric dyes. I have painted on commercial art boards of all sorts, I have painted on hardboard (maisonite), on hand-made papers of assorted colours and textures, and on all kinds of stretched canvases and linens.

"The reasons for this are obvious. My pictures vary so much in subject matter, just as much as my techniques and materials do, from slick graphic works to figurative dragons and



GENESIS



KNIGHTS TEMPLAR



1992
©

landscapes. Painting technique and skill is important — with some images demanding very tight detail on a smooth base, some looser, others heavier with a more textured base — but technique alone is not enough to create good work. Most importantly the picture has to be pleasing to the eye, it has to look great. If it also makes one think, then all the better. The other reason is that I would simply be bored to tears painting the same way all the time, year after year. To me, being a painter is all about learning. I like to think that I've learned a little more every time I finish a picture. There's so much to learn, I could live ten lifetimes and not learn it all!"

Chris's approach to his work is summed up by a motto which is written on his drawing board: "Always striving for that unobtainable perfection, that's what it's all about."



www.chrisachilleos.co.uk
www.titanbooks.com

BIKER'S VALKYRIE



BRÜNHILDE (Detail)



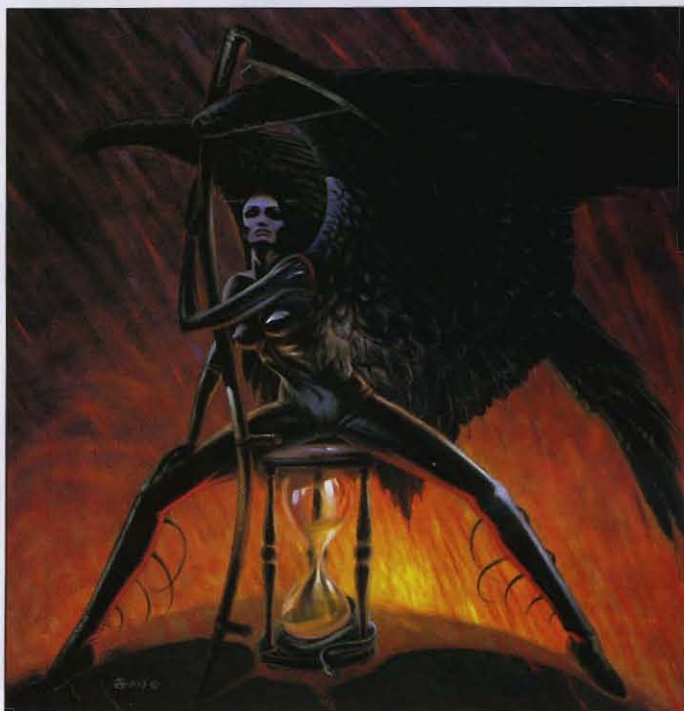
➤ TAARNA (Detail)



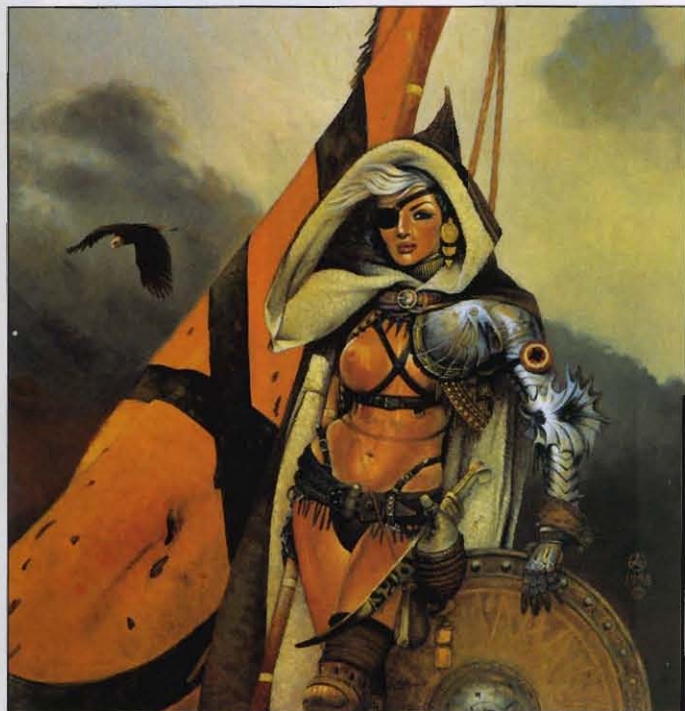
KATANA



PRINCESS'S FAVOURITE



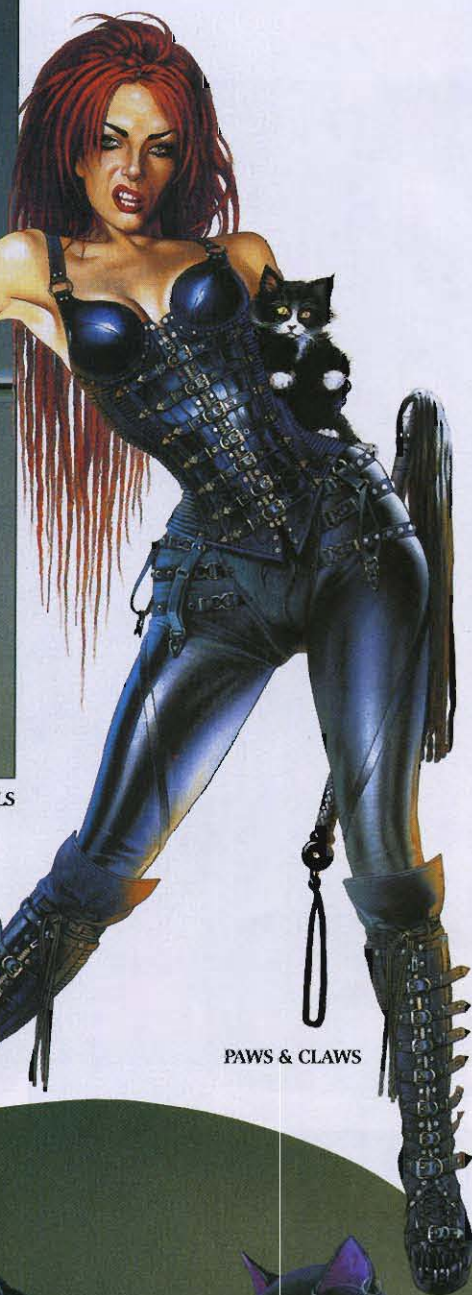
THE DARK ANGEL



MERCENARY 2



CHAIN OF FOOLS



PAWS & CLAWS



BUNNY GIRL



EROS IN LOVE



CATS

Suydam Interview
By S.C. Ringgenberg**Arthur Suydam: The Return
of a Favorite Son**

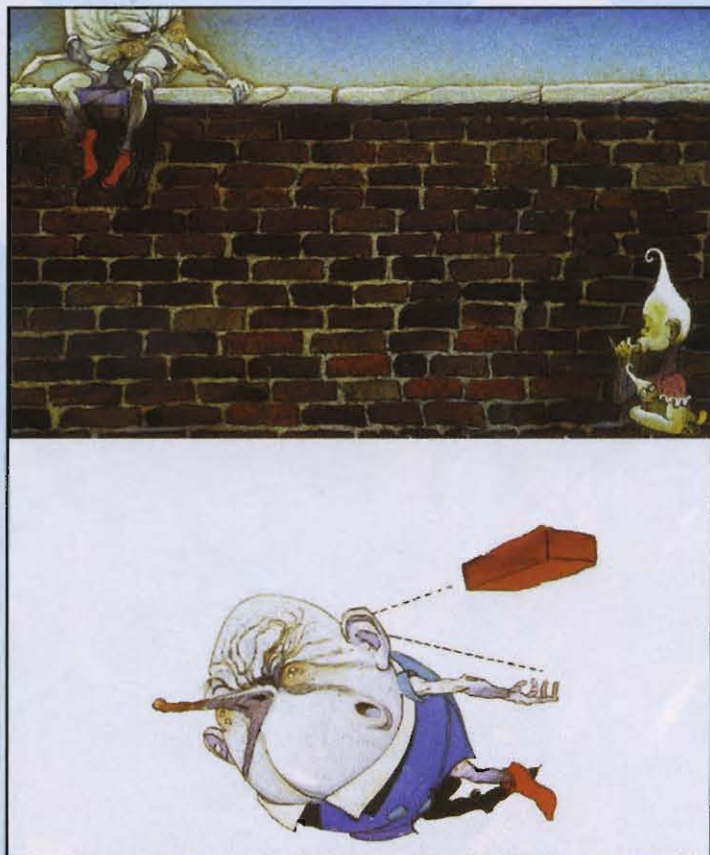
Many people who work in the comics industry aspire or claim to be Renaissance Men, but Arthur Suydam is a Renaissance Man. His accomplishments extend far beyond comics, into the worlds of music, film, television, illustration, writing, editing and art direction. An entirely self-taught artist, Suydam has been working in comics since his late teens, first contributing to DC's line of mystery comics under the editorship of the late Joe Orlando, then going on to do stellar work on "Mudwogs" for *Heavy Metal*. From there he went on to create the outrageous and hilarious "Cholly and Flytrap" for Marvel's *Epic* anthology. Since then, Suydam has divided his time between art and music, composing and arranging film scores, working as the musical director for Bill Haley's Comets after Halley's death and also playing rockabilly and zydeco music at venues all over the U.S. In recent years Suydam was also editor-in-chief of *Forbidden Zone*, an excellent but short-lived SF-fantasy anthology as well as contributing covers to Dark Horse for its *Tarzan* and *Aliens* titles, and to Marvel's revival of *Savage Tales*. His other projects have included writing and drawing a sequel to *Wind in the Willows*, the *Demon Dreams* anthologies for Pacific Comics, and *Visions: The Art of Arthur Suydam*. *Heavy Metal* is proud to welcome back one of its most popular and talented contributors. Stay tuned to the pages of HM for Suydam's upcoming "Mudwogs" and "Toads" series.

HM: You've been kind of away from the comics scene for a while doing other things, so what are you doing for *Heavy Metal* now?

SUYDAM: Well, with regard to being away from the comics scene, I really haven't been away as much as one might think. I've been working on some projects in the comics scene for the last eight years. It's that some of the projects never saw light of day because they ran into some bad luck. Some of them disappeared, the artwork to some of them were stolen. A project that I had up at Marvel, I did a Conan graphic novel for them. It was over 48 pages and in the process when they were actually scanning it somewhere in the process when they laid off a lot of those folks up there at Marvel somebody apparently picked up the artwork and disappeared with it is the word that I've got... So, it's fallen into the cracks and they haven't returned it...but, yeah, there's a full graphic novel that I did for them. I'm trying to think of some other stuff on the comics work. I've been doing some odd things here and there, but like you said, working a lot in TV and movies basically.

HM: You also worked on a science fiction-fantasy magazine called *Forbidden Zone*. For people who haven't heard of the project because I believe it only lasted one issue. Can you just give us a quick rundown about what *Forbidden Zone* was and what happened to it?

SUYDAM: Yeah. *Forbidden Zone* was an anthology magazine and the blueprint was laid out before me. They wanted sexy science fiction and I kind of put the whole thing together for them based on the specs of what they wanted and I thought it was a very good magazine actually. It was venture capital-based and was a Dotcom company. They were into shooting movies and developing their own TV shows, and they were also into publishing as well. And the first issue did very well as a matter of fact. It's just that because it was a



Dotcom company...when they had that big Dotcom crash, this company, unfortunately, the funding got pulled out from under them and they had to go down as well. But we did actually have issues two and three and were working on those and were pretty well along the way with those. We had a lot of great talent working for us. Giger was going to do some work. We had some Roger Dean stuff. We had a lot of great talent. I was starting to bring in some of the excellent illustrators who generally... work outside the comic industry, into the comic industry and so I was really looking forward to those magazines coming out. So it's kind of a shame that, as I said, that the Dotcom thing happened...but people were pretty happy with the product. It did pretty well. I did most of the writing on it, did a lot of artwork in it, did a lot of storyboarding, did some coloring behind the scenes and actually acted as editor-in-chief for the magazine.

HM: Let's go back to *Heavy Metal*. It seems you're returning to the pages of *Heavy Metal* after an absence of some years, so why don't you tell us what you're doing?

SUYDAM: Okay, well I've always had a fondness for *Heavy Metal*. In my eyes, they are solely

responsible for the, what I call the Renaissance in comic art in the comic industry and so right now we have scheduled two full graphic novels of unpublished material that should be appearing in *Heavy Metal*.

HM: What material are you doing for the magazine?

SUYDAM: One of them is the continuation of the "When Giants Walked the Earth Mudwog" series that I started a long time ago. And another one is a new thing, a new project that I'm working on. It's called "Toads."

HM: What is "Toads" about?

SUYDAM: What is "Toads" about? Let me think about this for a second. "Toads" is about the abil-





ity of small individuals to achieve great things. That's what it's about.

HM: Okay, I see. And is "Toads" in a particular genre?

SUYDAM: It's in the genre of the... "Cholly and Flytrap" work that I did.

HM: So, kind of wild, freewheeling science fiction-fantasy?

SUYDAM: Yeah, pretty wild.

HM: Will it have as much humor in it as the "Cholly and Flytrap" series?

SUYDAM: As much as the later stuff. Maybe not as much as some of the earlier stuff but yes, it's funny.

HM: And with "Mudwogs," is that going to be a direct continuation of the earlier strips?

SUYDAM: Yes, it's going to be a direct continuation... Since "Mudwogs" was written as one large book, what we're doing is, we're printing the whole book. It's going to be serialized, so we're doing the whole book. It is one long story, so we're going to print the story in its entirety.

RINGGENBERG: Is that going to be serialized in *Heavy Metal*?

SUYDAM: I said it's going to be serialized, yeah. None of what will appear in *Heavy Metal* has ever been in *Heavy Metal* before.

HM: When did you do this work?

SUYDAM: I started on it, I guess, back in 80's and I've been working on it all the way through.

HM: Were you intending to take it back to *Heavy Metal* or was this just a happy coincidence?

SUYDAM: Just a happy coincidence.

HM: The earlier "Mudwogs" work was done in what looked like a watercolor technique.

SUYDAM: Right, that's correct. So it's the exact same style. The artwork's probably a little bit better because hopefully I got better over the years.

HM: Will the "Toads" work be done in that same kind of color technique?

SUYDAM: A similar style yes.

HM: I know from talking to you and talking to Renee, your partner, that you've been quite busy. Why don't you tell me what else you've been doing besides "Mudwogs" and the "Toads" strip?

SUYDAM: Well, let's see, we have a lot of things... we've got a lot of movie interest in some projects. I do a lot of writing. Always have. I've always written all my own stuff, and so (I'm) getting a lot of interest in my writing especially from publishing and the movie industry. Doing some song writing, doing a lot of that. I used to do a lot of soundtrack work for movies, more songwriting and studio work, singing and guitar playing and that kind of thing.

HM: Would you say you've done more musical work on films than you did design work and things like that?

SUYDAM: Yeah. I've done more music than artwork. Lately, I've been doing a lot of artwork in the last six years. I've been doing a lot of art and a lot of writing. More writing actually than artwork, some artwork as well. Unfortunately, they were for these Dotcom entertainment companies that were working on their movie projects and TV projects and we got as far as we got before the funding ran out, so I did a lot of work on them, and unfortunately a lot of these things have not gotten to see the light of day.

HM: What are some of the specific projects that you have lined up for Image and Dark Horse and some of the other publishers?

SUYDAM: We have a *Cholly and Flytrap* comic that's going to be coming out from Image and we're going to do a trade paperback on the Collected *Cholly and Flytrap* at the end of the run of that story. That starts in November. We have "The Art of the Barbarian" coming out in October/November. That features my work on Conan, Tarzan and Death Dealer among other barbarian characters. Many more poster books and possible series will be coming out from Eva Ink and Image. We also have an art book coming out from Vanguard Publishing entitled "The Fantastic Fantasy Art of Arthur Suydam." I also painted four trading cards for Mark Irwin at Upper Deck for the Marvel Knights game that comes out in February. Nice painted pieces of Zarathos,

Mephisto, Ghost Rider, and El Guapo. Let's see what else do we have? We have an "Alien Encounters" poster book, some new artwork in there.

HM: What's in it? I know you did a number of *Aliens* cover paintings for Dark Horse.

SUYDAM: Yeah, so it encompasses some of the best paintings that I did, some unpublished work, and one, we'll call it the Arthur Suydam Lost monster Painting. There's a new painting in there as well. If it's not in stores you can order it from Renee at: evaink@aol.com. All my projects can be ordered through her.

HM: Will the book include any of your studies or roughs for some of the paintings?

SUYDAM: Yes. It'll include some of the drawings.

HM: With the *Cholly and Flytrap* stuff you're doing for Image, is that going to start with reprinting the original stories or with new material?

SUYDAM: It's going to be both.

HM: So each comic is going to be a combination of new work and reprints?

SUYDAM: Yeah, it'll have a combination of stuff in it. Also, we're doing a barbarian art book, the Art of Barbarian book. It's going to have a lot of unpublished stuff and it's going to feature some of the... people will get to see for the first time what some of the Death Dealer art looked like without the computer coloring because it looked quite different than it actually appeared in the book.

HM: Will the barbarian book include any of your Tarzan paintings?

SUYDAM: I don't know if we'll have any of the paintings, but we'll have some of the drawings for sure, some of the preliminaries and some of the finished sketches and a lot of unpublished work. . Brett Evans at Image is designing the book right now. Renee provided the text and I provide the commentary.

HM: Were you a Tarzan fan growing up?

SUYDAM: Yes. (Laughs)

HM: Do you feel like you had any special feel for the character? Was he fun to do?

SUYDAM: Yeah, yeah. Just because I've always been very

much a student of anatomy, so I wouldn't say growing up, but once I got into my twenties then yeah I very much had an interest in Tarzan. I always really wanted to get a crack at him to kind of show what I can do with the character.

HM: Are you a fan of any of the earlier Tarzan artists like Foster or Frazetta?

SUYDAM: I like 'em all.

HM: It didn't seem like your approach was particularly influenced by anybody because of the palette you used.

SUYDAM: No, no, probably not. I'd say at the time that I was working on those particular Tarzan paintings, I go through periods where I'm always studying, so I mean I'm always studying to try and better my art skills. And they usually last seven years for each, I'll call it, study period and that particular study period I was really heavily studying the Renaissance artists. So I would say that they might have been the biggest influence when I was working on those initial Tarzan pieces for Dark Horse.

HM: Before we close let me just get back to "Mudwogs" again. Did it feel odd getting back to the "Mudwogs" characters again?

SUYDAM: No. It felt as natural as slipping into a comfortable old pair of shoes. It was very easy and very comfortable.

HM: Were these characters alive in your imagination even when you weren't actually drawing them?

SUYDAM: Yeah. Very much so. I mean, for me, my artistic development with regards to developing stories and artwork, I started it when I was age four and I spent hours on it probably almost every single day since, and what I do now is, for me, is no different than what I did then. It's more I like to create stories and then put the pictures to go with the stories. I don't really consider myself a cartoonist. I consider myself a creator.



T H E E L U S I V E ARTHUR SUYDAM

A gallery look at a mysterious mind

By: Renée Witterstaetter



*Cholly & Flytrap series from Image Comics/Eva Ink 2004/2005.
Limited edition poster from Heroic Fine Arts 2005.*

If tales of myths and magic and giants roaming the hills seem wonderfully possible and matter of course...

If a train whistle blowing raises an eyebrow and stirs desires to hop aboard like some modern Huck Finn to ride out the rails to fantastical adventure...

If you sense haunting mountain lullabies behind blue eyes, that force their own birth through bent, scarred, fingers, emerging full blown on the strings of an old wood-top guitar...

If you can imagine all of these things and more becoming reality in the rooms of one man's mind...

*Then perhaps you are familiar with the wry writing, mad wit and amazing artistry of one of the world's most gifted yet elusive talents-- who is making his long awaited return to **Heavy Metal** in this very issue, with the continuation of his definitive character, the "Mudwog."*

*In this, the first of 11 chapters, **Heavy Metal** begins this feature of some of the finest watercolor art ever created from this ultimate storyteller. Not to be missed!*

But first, what of this mysterious fella anyway?

Conan © Conan Properties. Used by permission.



Some say he draws and paints like a Dutch master, writes like Disney, composes like Dylan and sings with the earthy vocals of a Gene Vincent and Roy Oribison combined, while playing a guitar like Jeff Beck--demonstrating a depth, variety and raw talent that has transcended his initial notoriety in comics *entirely*.

His name is Arthur Suydam.

Coupled with his singleness of focus, instinct for storytelling, and knowledge of science that is so abundant in his work—Suydam reminds one more of an alchemistic mix of Spielberg, Chaplin and DaVinci, men with that rare ability to crystallize the creative process and excel in a myriad of creative areas simul-taneously!

In truth, some have speculated if this mysterious writer, artist and composer known as Arthur Suydam really *exists* at all. Like the Yeti or Bigfoot, people have *claimed* to see him...but how do we *really* know! Sure there are a few photos, but that could be some actor! And really, how is it *even* possible that one man could have so many talents? History would have us believe, as stated above, that over the course of the past three decades that this ONE man named Arthur Suydam emerged on the scene and: Was vastly instrumental in the 1980's comic book Renaissance when the uniquely American pop genre fully

"Arthur Suydam: Art of the Barbarian" Image Comics/Eva Ink.

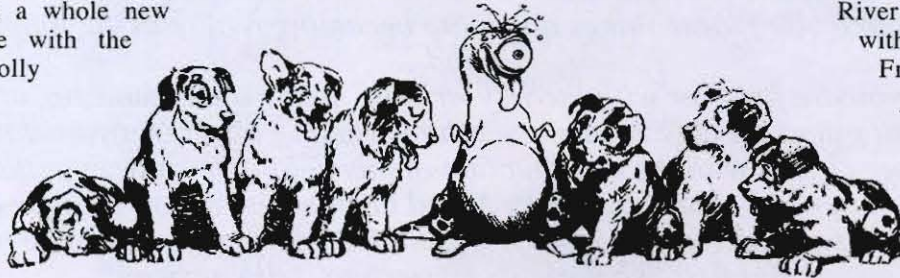
came into it's own; that he influenced generations via his cut-ting-edge writing in "Heavy Metal" magazine, breaking barriers and creating tales which are socially relevant to this day; And then, like some Ulysses, he remerges following a decade of woodshedding with a whole new take on the genre with the revolutionary "Cholly and Flytrap," (no doubt influencing the whole "road warrior" craze.)

It's even more suspicious that simultaneously throughout the 80's and 90's, *someone* named Arthur Suydam was also composing and performing roots music on the New York scene, belting out tunes with the disembodied voice of...at various times...that Vincent/Orbi-son combo or Junior Brown. His original classical acoustic music...strummed longingly--on an instrument given to him by Bruce Springsteen--has even been said by some eyewitnesses, to have made people...cry.

Those who claim to know this Suydam

(but who are obviously lying because *he is of course a myth*) explain him by saying that this secretive man of Dutch and Blackfoot Indian heritage is 100% self-taught He supposedly hides himself away from the world and his peers, honing his crafts in the confines

Babe the blue cow). They would have us believe that young Suydam was an artistic and creative prodigy at the age of four. Really no big surprise. Arthur was surrounded by ample role models. His great uncle, James Augustus Suydam, was a renowned Hudson River painter who, along with Thomas Cole and Frederick Church, pioneered recognition for American artists internationally. His great uncle Edward Henry Suydam is celebrated as one of America's finest architectural artists, with drawings in the White House and The Museum of New York. Though self taught (at least the yarn spinners are consistent), some regard the young inheritor of this



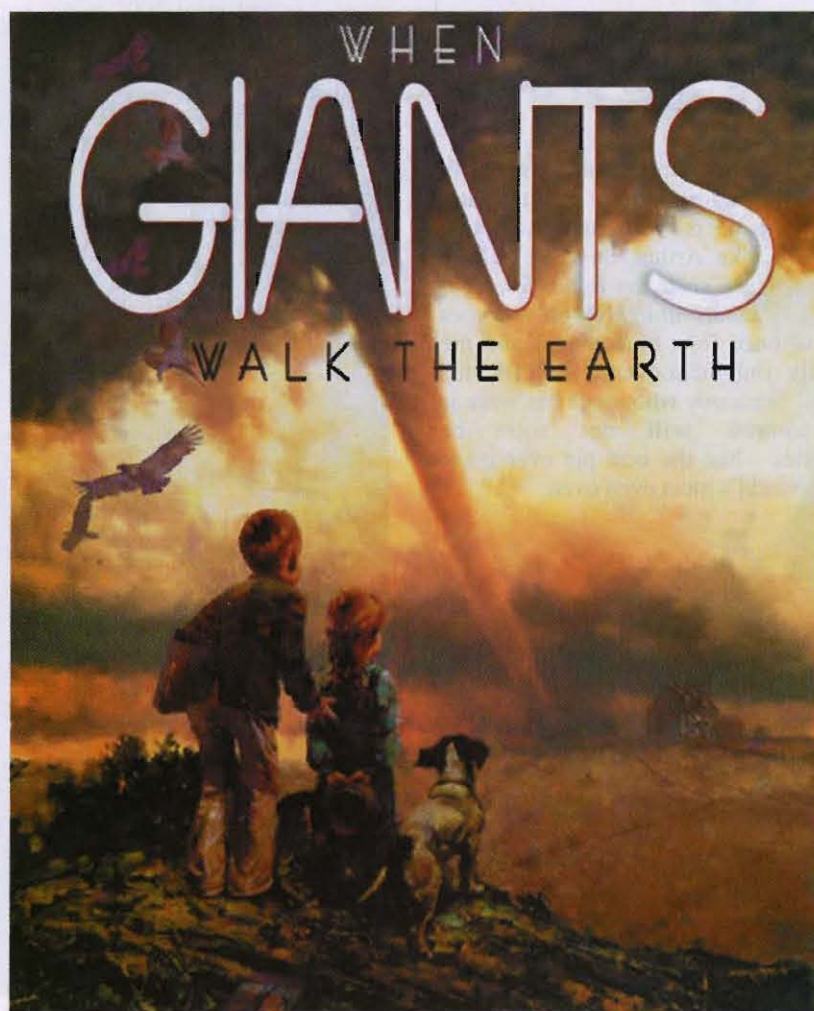
of one room, married to his art, shunning the mainstream and preferring to "grow and create without distraction" on the less lucrative fringe.

As Aristotle said, they point out, "No great genius is without an admixture of madness."

These same leg-pullers have gone on to supply a history for their own legendary Arthur (*I say this only because we must NOW surely rank him with the likes of Paul Bunyan or*



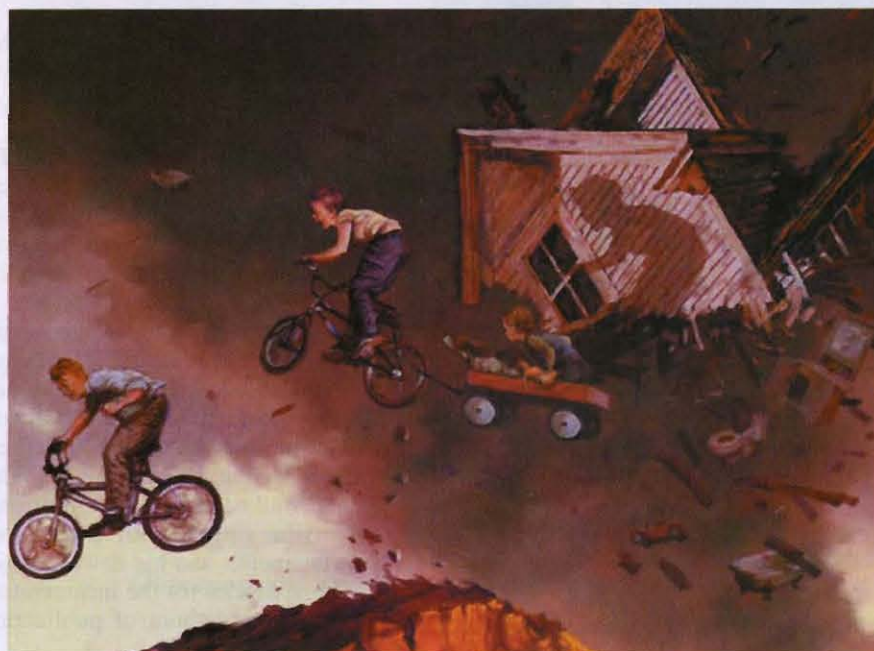
Two images from the Alien Encounters Poster Book. Image Comics/Eva Ink



Top and right: "When Giants Walk the Earth."
 Under film option with Dark Horse Productions.
 Note Suydam's homage to one of his influences, Norman Rockwell.

creative legacy to be indirectly linked to Norman Rockwell, through a collection of lessons passed on to him from John Suydam, who studied with Rockwell privately.

In his early years, the mythical Suydam's life took many artistic paths. At age fourteen, he was already an award-winning writer, artist and musician, performing professionally in his native New Jersey. By age eighteen, Arthur was a tournament-caliber tennis player with a thriving career internationally as a writer and illustrator for some of the world's most prestigious publishers of illustrated fiction. In the 70's, following Bill Haley's tragic death, The Comets reorganized and hired Suydam as musical director for their American-Canadian tour. This was followed by a stint with "Tony Williams and the Platters," where he was discovered by film producer Bill Delia, who hired him to



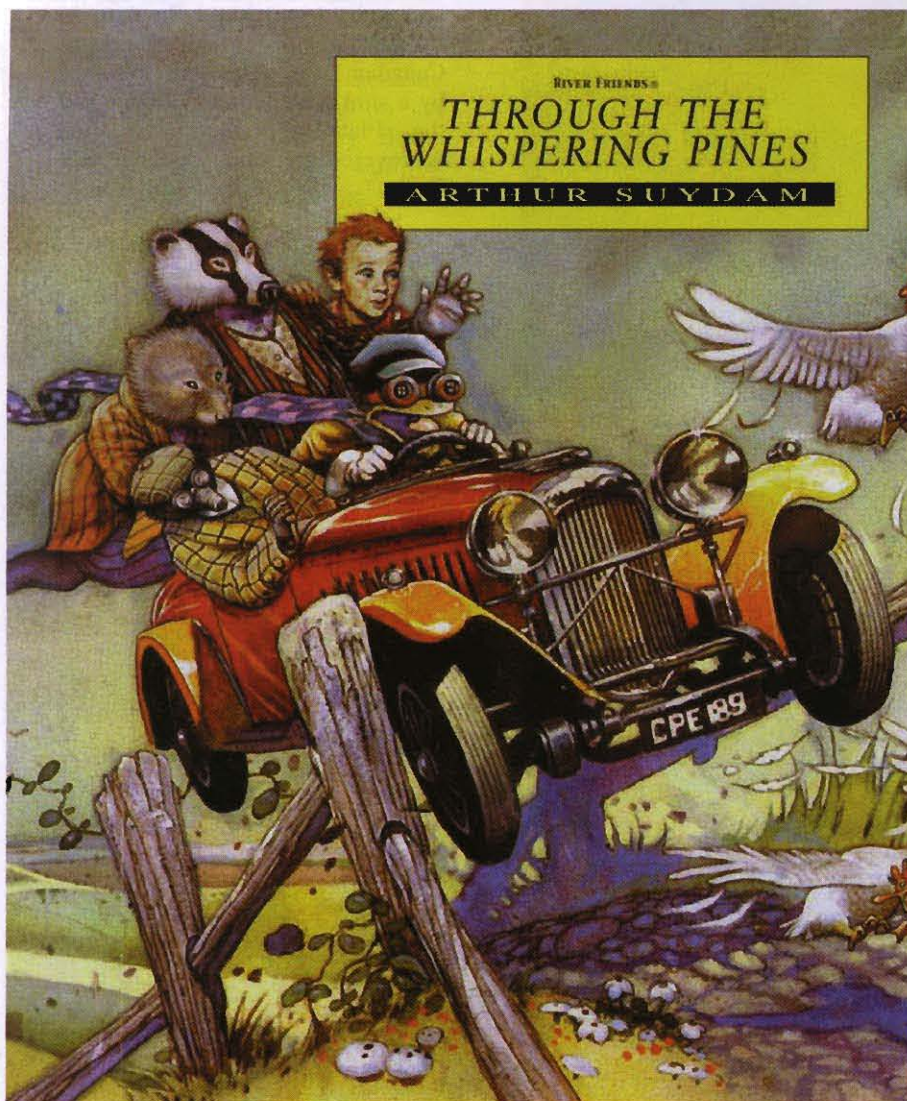
"Art of the Barbarian."
 Image Comics/Eva Ink.

musically direct, compose and perform music for his first movie soundtrack for Pulitzer and Oscar-winning writer Thomas Berger's film, *The Feud*, taking his sidemen from Paul McCartney's Wings, Joe Cocker, UB-40, Elton John, The Cars, the Brian Setzer Orchestra and Billy Joel's and the Rolling Stone's horn section, The Uptown Horns...to name only a few.

Yet the over-riding passion of Suydam's life seems to be undoubtedly creating stories, characters and memorable moments in a wide range of fiction via either his words, his art, or sublimely.

cocoon every ten years or so to deliver these gifts, placed on the stoop of our hearts, to see which are perceptive enough to discover them.

Suydam-ites—which most assuredly include underground artists and discerning peers—will insert here that someone like Arthur Suydam (*whose existence, we must say again for legal reasons, seems unlikely*) only comes around once in a blue moon, and are usually only discovered AFTER his death. Someone who, once his work is encountered, will not soon be forgotten—like the best pie ever made in the world's most even oven.



Graphic Novel sequel to "Wind in the Willows." Image Comics/Eva Ink 2005



Cheesecake.
Art of Arthur Suydam.
Image Comics/Eva Ink 2005

exhibiting his work, called Suydam's watercolors "the finest comic book art ever created."

His body of writing includes "The Adventures of Cholly and Flytrap", "Demon Dreams", "Mudwogs", and "Visions: The Art of Arthur Suydam." He has contributed text and artwork to hundreds of comic publications, as well as writing the long awaited sequel of "Wind in the Willows." His current projects include witty looks at rural life, mystery, magic and universal themes in such works as "Fireflies", "Mouse in the House" and "When Giants Walked the Earth"—currently under film option with Dark Horse Entertainment, and his newest project "Bedtime Stories for the Incarcerated", as well as a plethora of publications

due out in 2005 from Image Comics and Eva Ink Publishing.

Suydam in rare phone interviews (most likely that same actor) cites Mark Twain and the youth oriented authors of the nineteenth century as major influences on his work. His Mississippi was the Hudson, however, and paddle wheelers were superimposed with fishing boats returning with the days catch to working class families. But kids still fished there, just as in Twain's day, and skinny-dipped and made-believe--that adventure was around the corner, and that maybe...just maybe...giants lived in the hills.



*"Death Dealer" Poster Book.
Image Comics/Eva Ink 2005.*



*"Mudwogs" preview.
Appearing in Heavy Metal in 2005.*

In truth, this reporter believes that much like Lassie, we will no doubt some day discover that there was MORE than ONE Suydam. How else can you explain it?

Yet, we would very much like to believe that there IS one singular and unique person named Arthur Suydam. If so, we must brand him an anomaly, an artistic anarchist, but most ASSUREDLY rare. (Oh, and if by chance you encounter photographic proof of his existence, please forward it post haste! Afterall....somehow, it would be good just to know.)

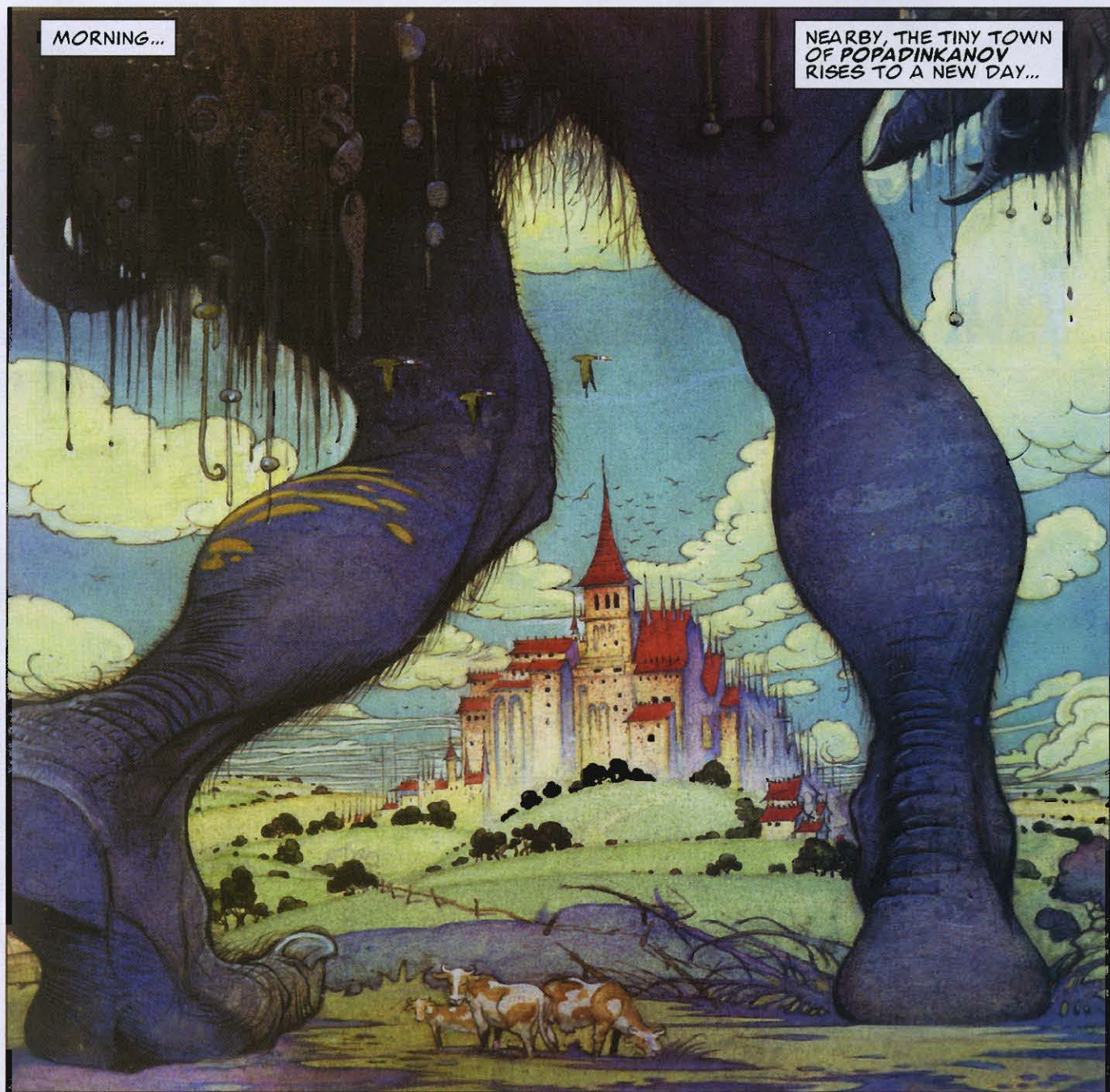
*(For more information on ordering Arthur Suydam's past and future projects from Image Comics/Eva Ink Publications, contact :
evaink@aol.com, as well as Joe Koch at www.fpnyc.com for back issues.)*

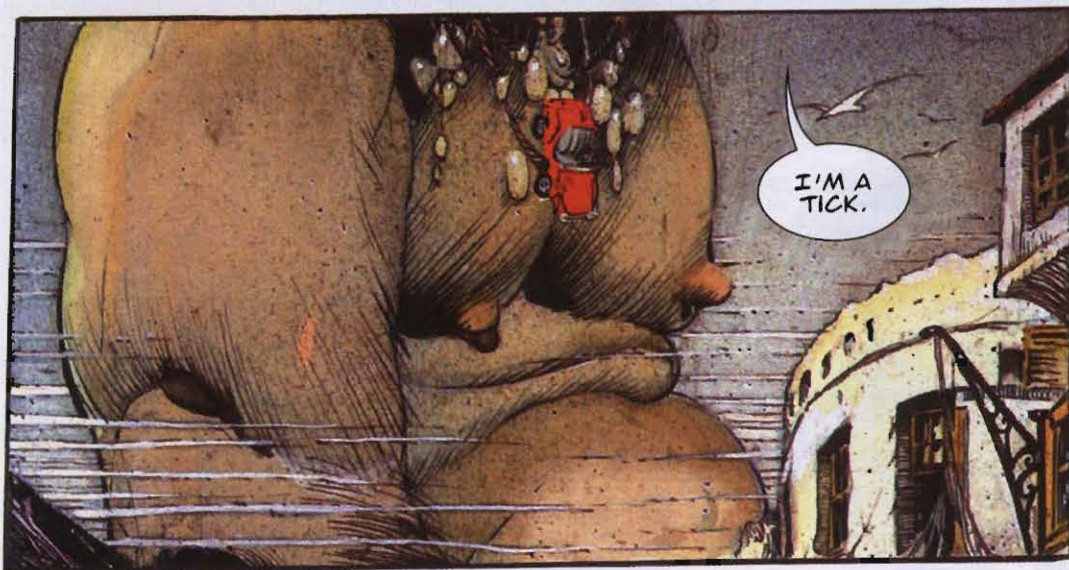
MUDWOG

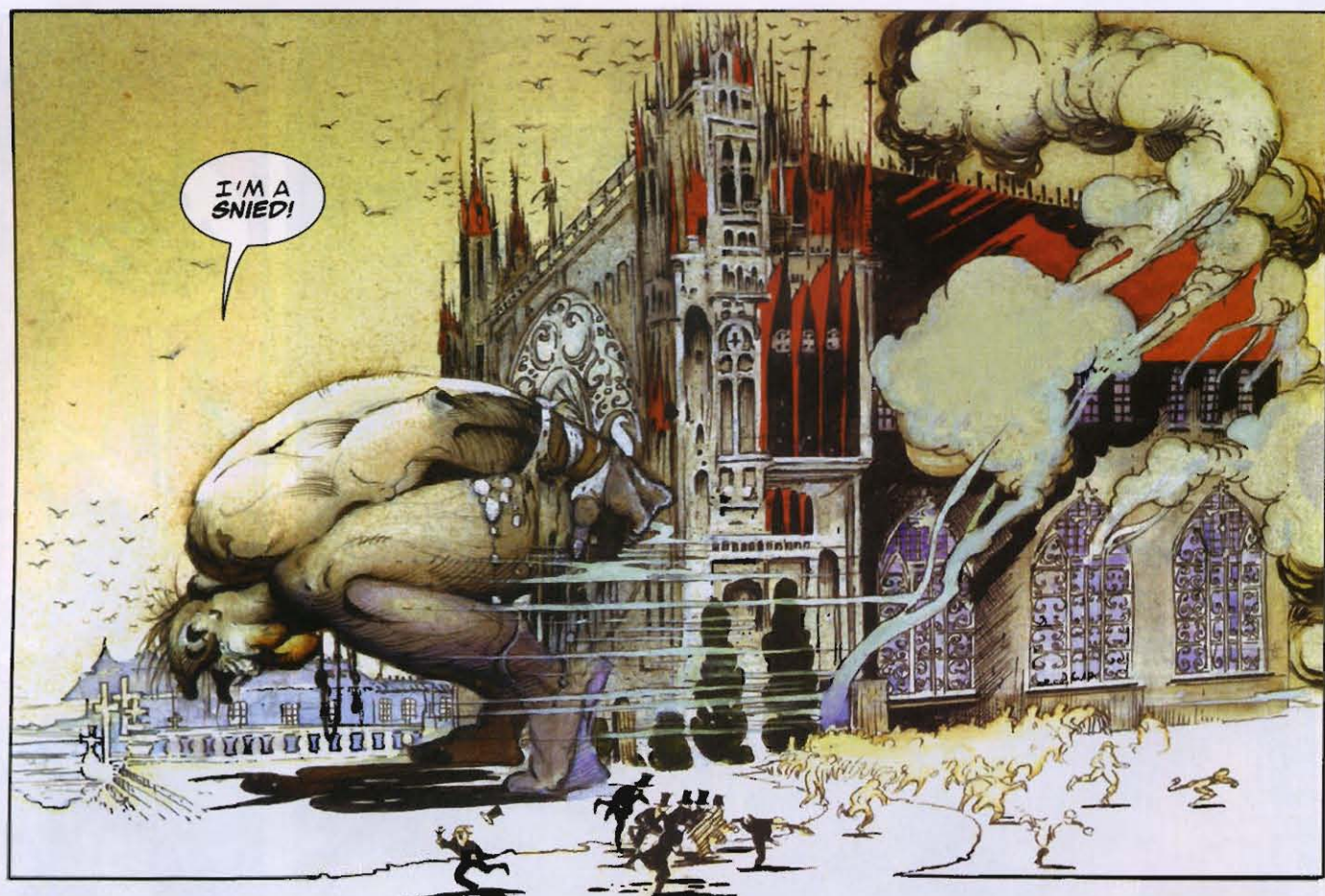
WRITER - ARTIST - CREATOR: ARTHUR SUYDAM

MORNING...

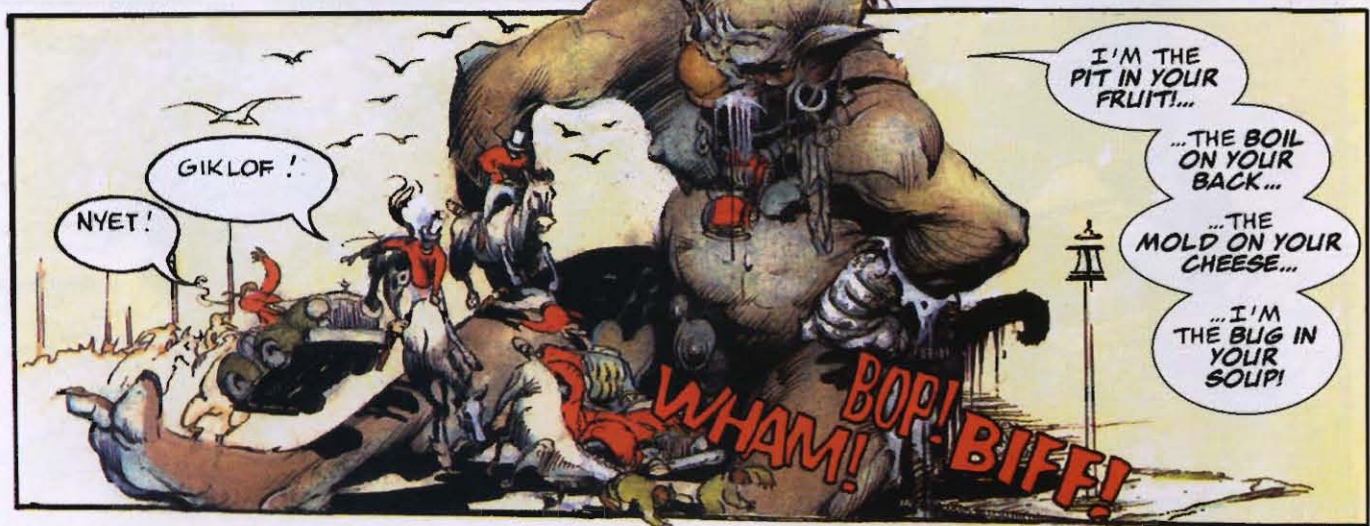
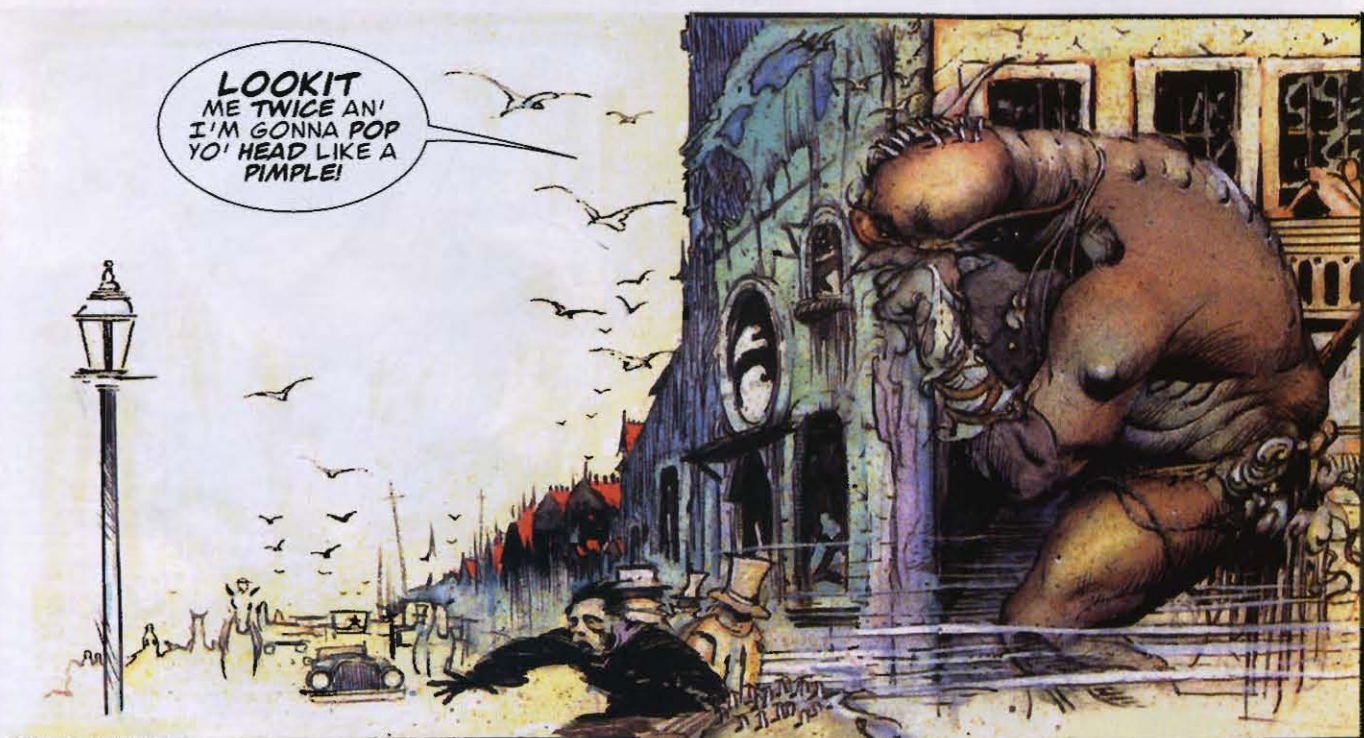
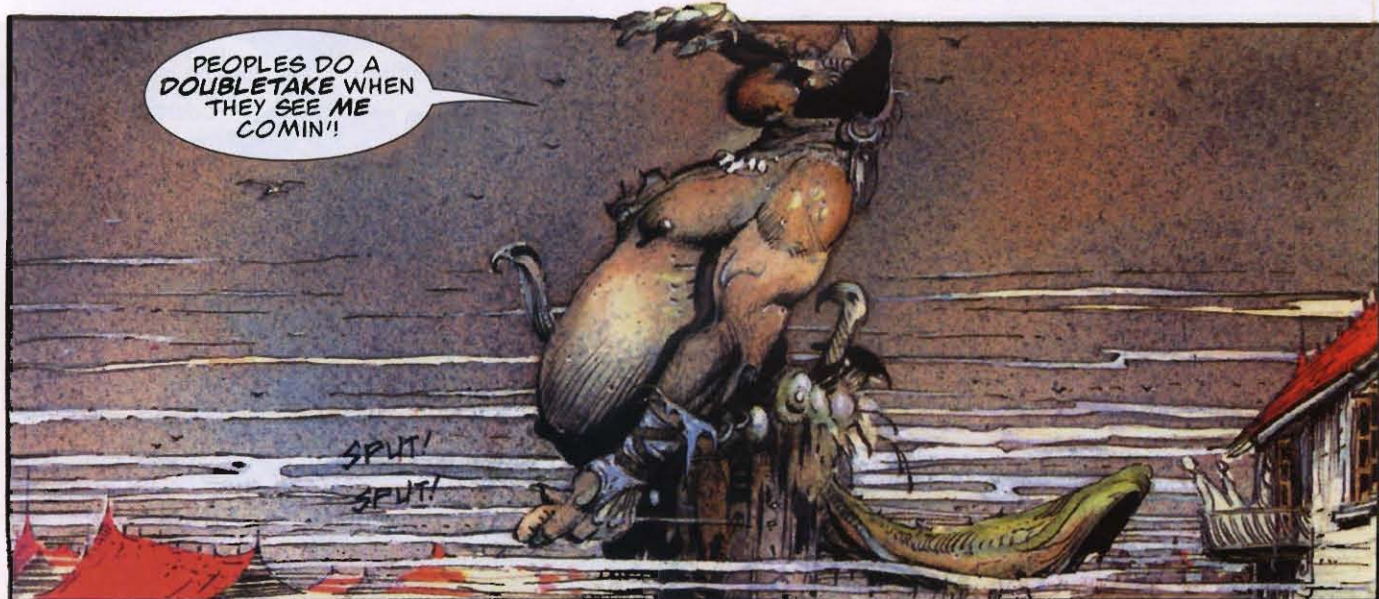
NEARBY, THE TINY TOWN
OF POPADINKANOV
RISES TO A NEW DAY...



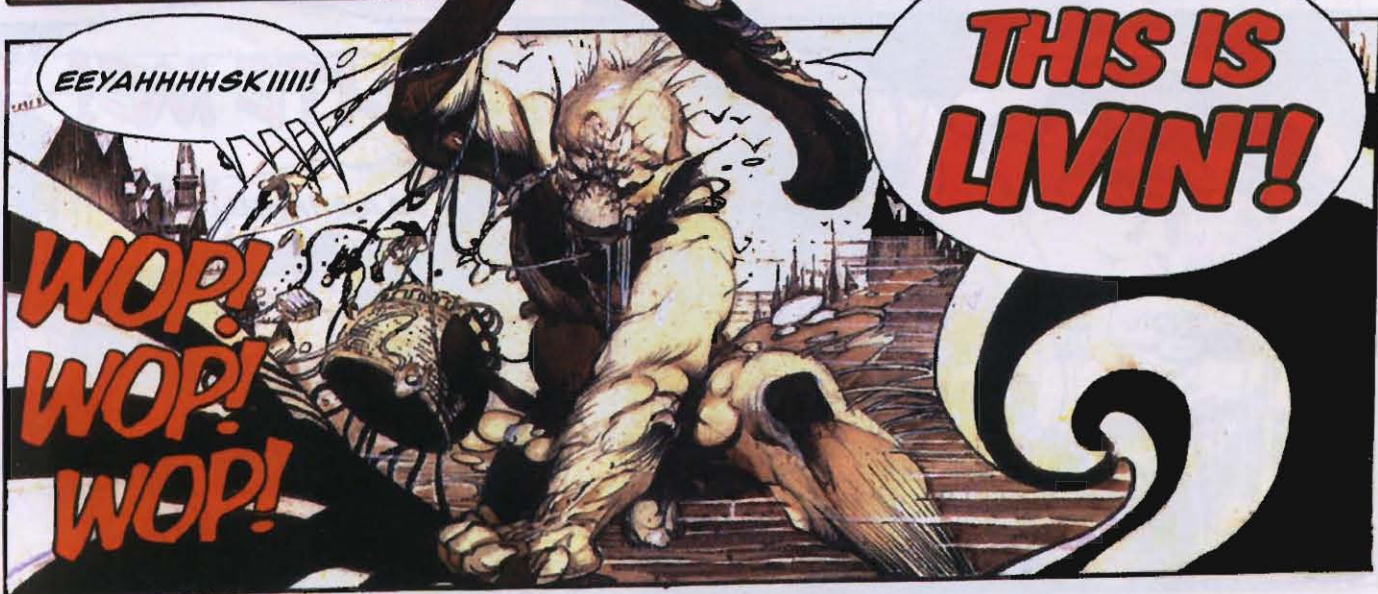
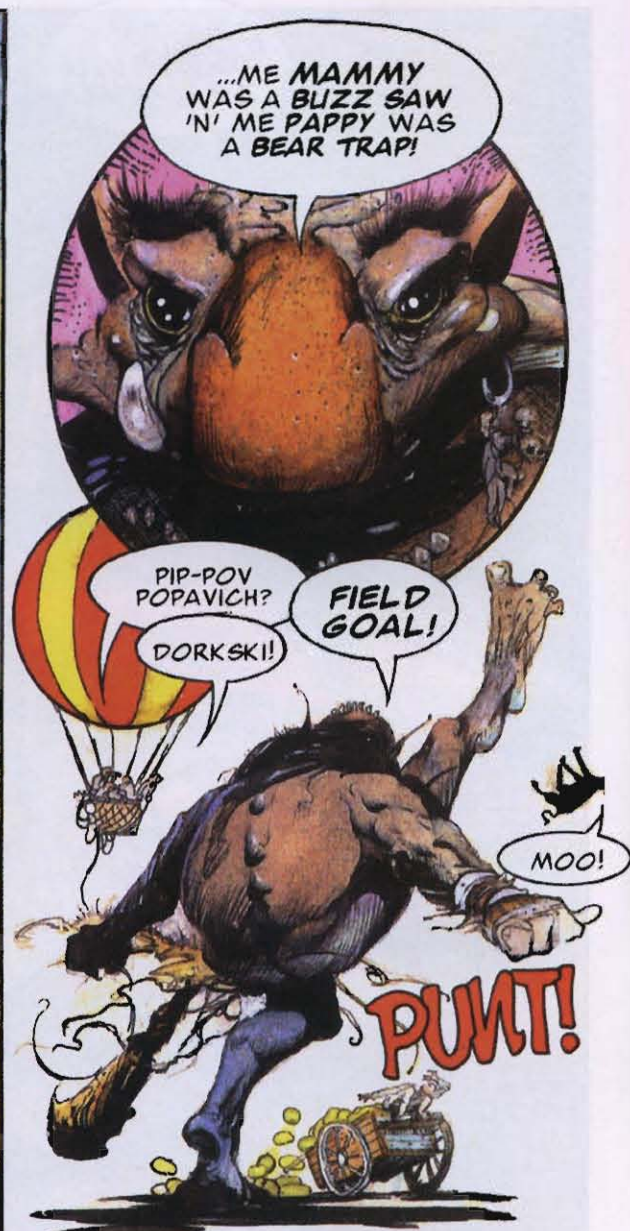
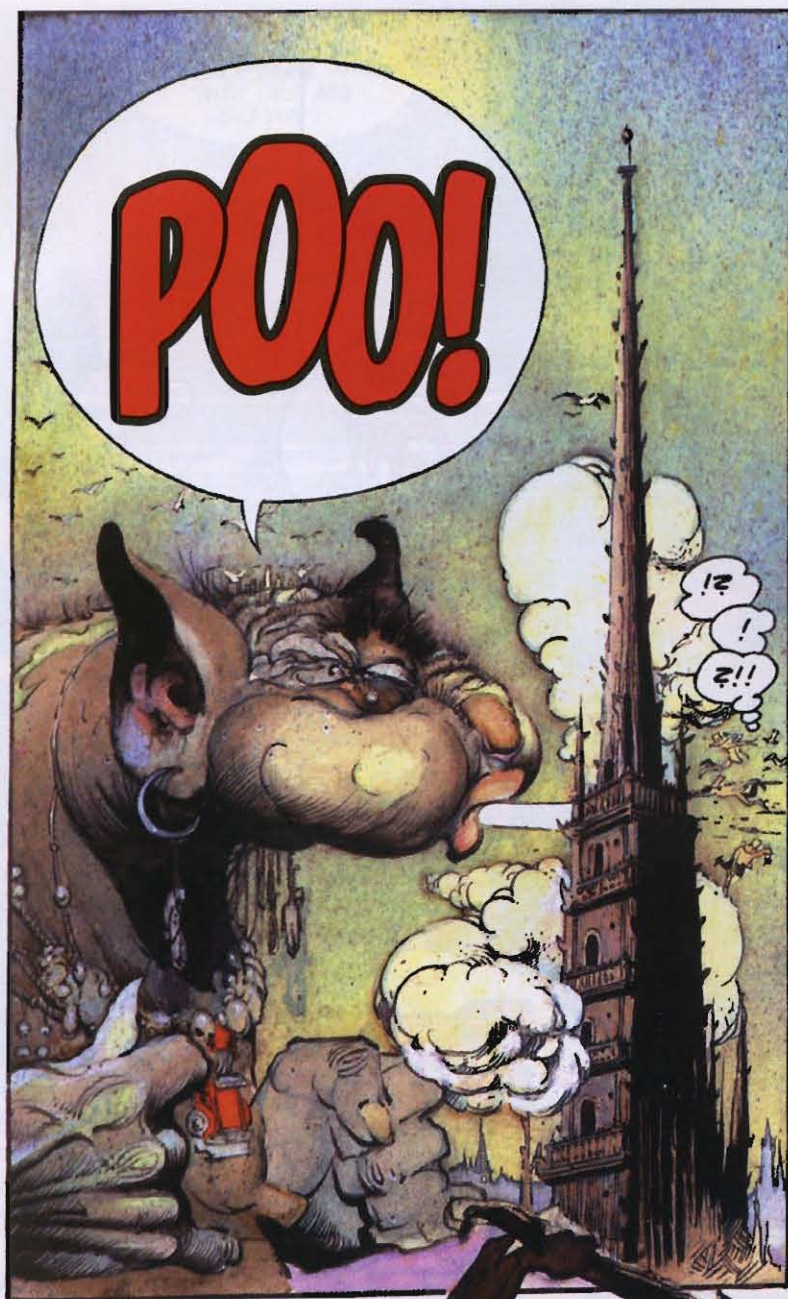


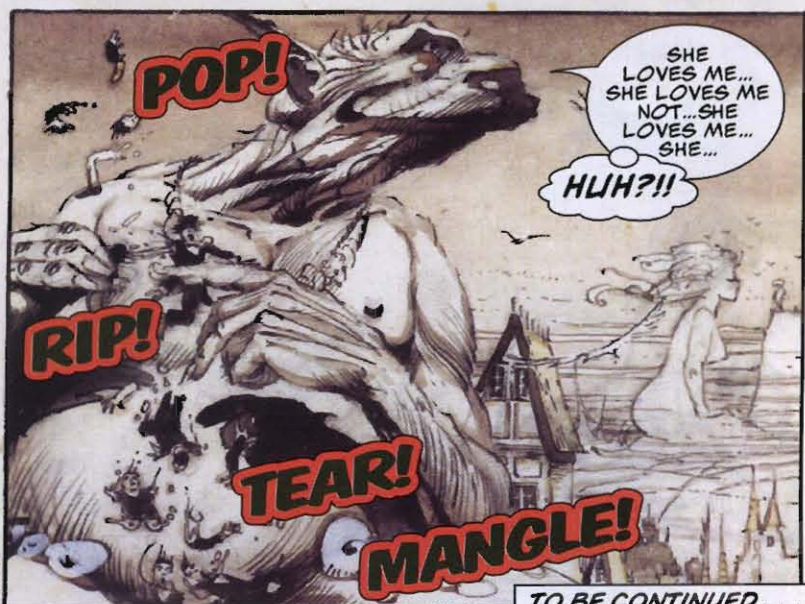
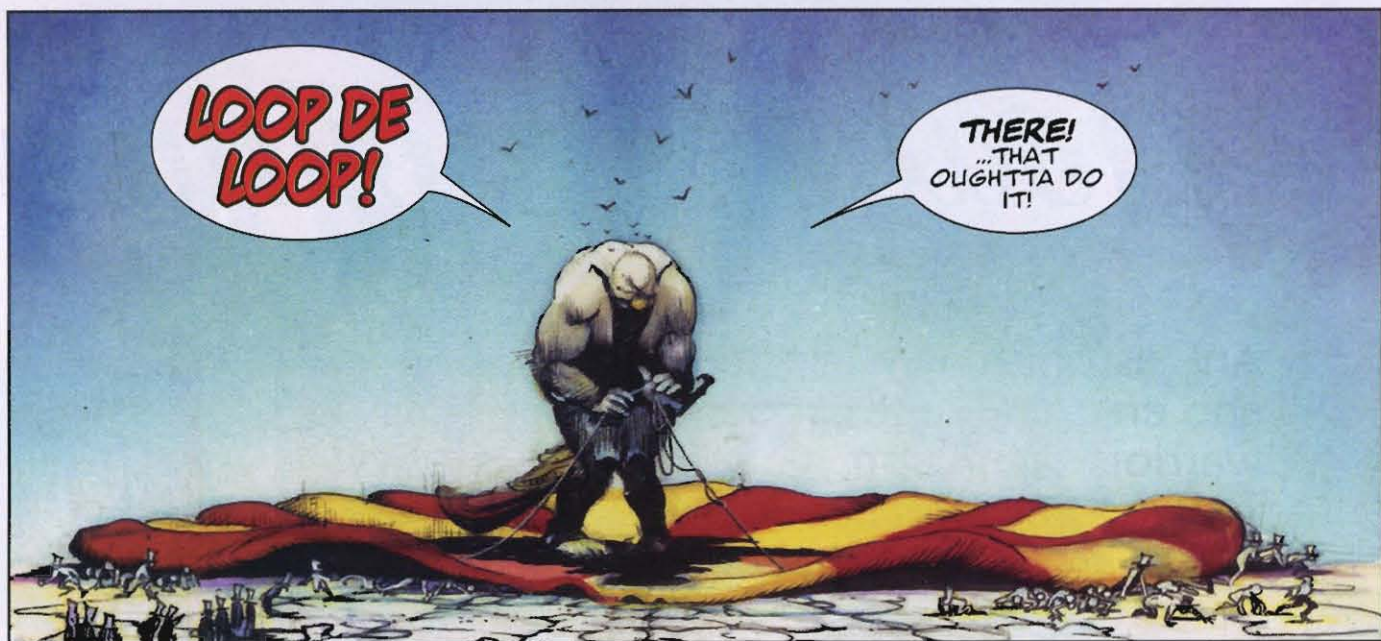












Requiem



SCENES:
PAT MILLS

DESIGN:
OLIVIER LEDROIT

TRANSLATION:
JACQUES COLLIN

LETTERING:
ANNE DRANO



HURRY UP WITH
THAT THING,
HEINRICH!

NOW TO MAKE THE
TERRORISTS PAY FOR
BLOWING UP TRAINS!



THE EASTERN
FRONT, 1944.

FFFFFFFFFFFF



YOU GOT THE
BASTARDS!

MAKE SURE YOU
GET THE WHOLE
BUNCH!



MORE OF THE
POPOVS! UP
THERE IN THE
RAFTERS!



YOU WANT SOME
TOO, EH?



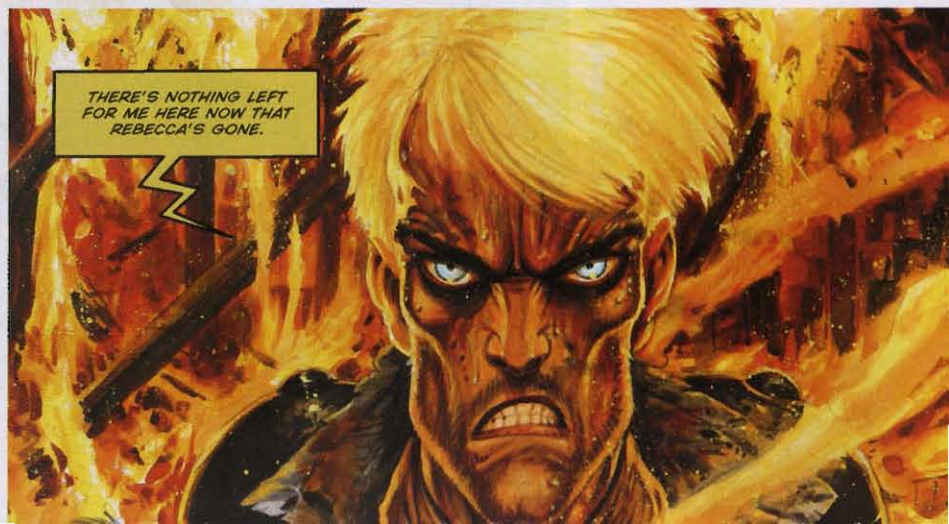
BURN IN HELL,
RUSSIANS!



I'LL JOIN YOU
THERE SOON!



AAAGGH!



THERE'S NOTHING LEFT
FOR ME HERE NOW THAT
REBECCA'S GONE.

BERLIN, TWO YEARS
EARLIER.

REBECCA! WON-
DERFUL NEWS!

I AM TO BE PRESENT-
ED WITH THE IRON
CROSS BY THE
FUHRER HIMSELF!

REBECCA...?
WHAT IS IT?

WHAT'S
WRONG?

THERE'S SOME-
THING I HAVE TO
TELL YOU, HEINRICH.

SOMETHING I SHOULD
HAVE TOLD YOU WHEN WE
FIRST MET. YOU'RE NOT
GOING TO LIKE IT.

HEINRICH...?

WHATEVER IT IS, IT
DOESN'T MATTER
BECAUSE I LOVE YOU.
I'LL UNDERSTAND.

YOU...
YOU'RE
JEWISH!



I HAD NO IDEA REQUIEM HAD SUCH A FASCINATING PAST, MY LORD. I ASSUME YOU DISCOVERED THIS DURING HIS TRAINING ON THE MOON?

INDEED, AND IT GETS BETTER. THE ATTRACTION HEINRICH AND REBECCA FELT FOR ONE ANOTHER NOW WAS NOT LOVE BUT HATE...

AND THAT OH, SO SWEET TASTE OF FORBIDDEN FRUIT YOU AND I KNOW SO WELL.

OH, YES.

SHE ONLY SUBMITTED IN ORDER TO SAVE HER LIFE. AND YET... THEIR MUTUAL HATRED SOMEHOW MADE THEIR LOVE STRONGER THAN BEFORE.

SHE CONTROLLED HEINRICH IN A WORLD WHERE SHE WAS LOST, BUT IN THE BEDROOM HE WAS LOST.

AND WHEN ALL THE LUST AND THE MADNESS WAS DONE, THE GODS DESTROYED THEM...

WHAT AN EXQUISITE MOMENT, BALANCED ON A FULCRUM OF TIME.

SHE OWNED HIM BODY AND SOUL. ALTHOUGH SHE WAS CLEVER ENOUGH FOR IT TO SEEM OTHERWISE.

IF HEINRICH HAD ARRIVED AT HER APARTMENT A FEW MINUTES EARLIER, HE TOO WOULD HAVE BEEN CAUGHT BY THE GESTAPO.

A FEW MINUTES LATER AND SHE WOULD HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN AWAY.

HOW THE GODS MUST HAVE ENJOYED THE DILEMMA OF OUR VIRILE STORM-TROOPER STANDING IMPOTENT ON THE PAVEMENT AS THE GREAT LUST OF HIS LIFE DISAPPEARED.

HEINRICH WAS LEFT IN TORMENT... WITH A GUILT AND A HUNGER FOR HER THAT COULD NEVER BE SATISFIED.

SO HE TRIED TO BLOT OUT HER MEMORY BY BECOMING A BEAST, A MONSTER ON THE EASTERN FRONT.

AND WHEN HE DIED, IN THE MOST SORDID OF CIRCUMSTANCES, HIS SOUL RETAINED THE FICTIONAL IMAGE OF THE HEROIC GERMAN SOLDIER HE WANTED TO BELIEVE.

THE REALITY WAS TOO MUCH FOR HIM TO BEAR.



HE ROMANTICIZED HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH REBECCA, TURNING HER INTO A LATTER DAY JULIET TO HIS UNLIKELY ROMEO.



ALTHOUGH, IN FACT THE REAL REBECCA WAS SOMEWHAT OVERWEIGHT AND GIVEN TO FLATULENCE.



BUT WE DON'T WANT TO SPOIL A TENDER LOVE STORY, DO WE?



AND, OF COURSE REBECCA HAD LOST QUITE A FEW POUNDS BY THE END OF HER LIFE.



YES, WE ALL LOST WEIGHT IN THE CAMPS.

AH, YES, YOUR OWN PAST CAN HARDLY ENDEAR YOU TO A NAZI.



WE WILL CONTINUE THIS CONVERSATION AFTER I HAVE RESTED.

YES, YOU NEED YOUR STRENGTH FOR THE JOURNEY TO RESURRECTION.

YOUTH COMES TO US ALL, MORTIS.



EXCEPT FOR COUNT DRACULA AND HIS FAMILY.

HOW DIPLOMATIC OF YOU TO REMIND ME I WAS NOT FAVORED WITH HIS DARK KISS.



I STILL MISS
THOSE DECADENT
PARTIES ON RES-
URRECTION.

AND THE DANSE
MACABRE
PROMISES TO
BE QUITE A
PARTY.

MOST OF THE ROYAL
FAMILY WILL BE PRE-
SENT: ATTILA, CALIGULA,
COUNTESS ELIZABETH...




MY
MASTER...


BLACK SABBAT.

AND, OF COURSE,
LADY CLAUDIA. SHE
ALWAYS KNOWS HOW
TO PARTY.

PLUS I INVOKED A
DEMON TO APPEAR
AND DEAL WITH
REQUIEM: CHARNEL
THE DEMONIAC!




THAT NAME RINGS
A BELL. WASN'T HE
ONE OF THE
DEMONS FROM
THE LIMBOS?




AMONGST THE MOST
VIOLENT, SO NATURALLY I
STAYED AWAY. I COULDN'T
RISK BEING CONNECTED
WITH HIM.



IT WOULD SEEM RATHER BAD
SUMMONING AN ENEMY OF
OUR WORM GODS.




I THINK HE SHOULD SAFELY DIS-
POSE OF THIS UPSTART VAMPIRE.



BUT, IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT HE
LOSES, YOUR INFORMATION ABOUT
REQUIEM'S PAST WILL ENABLE ME TO
MAKE NEW PLANS.




WE CANNOT RISK
HIM INTERFERING
AGAIN.




THERE IS SOME-
THING ABOUT HIM
THAT MAKES ME
MOST UNEASY.



AAAAUUUGH!



I RECOGNIZE THE
WAY HE FIGHTS. LIKE
WHEN HE DEFEATED
THE GOD FROM THE
LIMBOS.



HE'S COME BACK
TO US AGAIN...
AFTER ALL THESE
CENTURIES!



AND NOW, CHARNEL...
YOU WILL TELL ME WHO
INVOKED YOU!



WHO IS MY
ENEMY? HIS
NAME!



SCREW YOU,
REQUIEM!



THEN I SHALL
DRAW THE TRUTH
FROM YOU BY
SORCERY!



I CANNOT TELL YOU,
HE SHROUDED HIS
NAME FROM MY MIND.

THAT WILL NOT
SAVE HIM.



REPEAT WHAT HE
SAID WHEN HE SUM-
MONED YOU.

THIS... THIS IS THE DAGGER
CHARLOTTE CORDAY USED
TO STAB MARAT...



HAVEN'T YOU
DONE ENOUGH
TO ME?

ALMOST.

CONTINUE!



GOOD GIRL, DAWN.
STRUGGLE! SCREAM!

I NEED YOUR
FEAR, YOUR
PAIN...

SO WHEN IT IS
TIME...

CHARNEL WILL
REANIMATE!



LORD MORTIS IS A
COLLECTOR OF
ANTIQUE WEAPONS.

AND HE HAS A
VICTIM CALLED
DAWN.

HAD A VICTIM
CALLED DAWN.

YOU'VE SERVED
YOUR PURPOSE,
CHARNEL. NOW LEAVE
THE DIMENSION!



YOU MUST BE CAREFUL.
REMEMBER MORTIS HAS
STRONG LINKS WITH THE
DRACULAS.



AND YOU ALSO,
OTTO. PERHAPS HE
POISONED YOUR
VICTIM'S BLOOD.

THERE WILL HAVE TO
BE A RECKONING
WITH HIM.

DON'T TURN
AROUND, HEINRICH.



BUT BLACK
SABBAT IS
LOOKING AT YOU
STRANGELY.

WHY DO I HAVE THE
FEELING THESE
VAMPIRES KNOW SOME-
THING ABOUT ME I DON'T
KNOW MYSELF?



BUT MY INTEREST LIES
ELSEWHERE! HAVE YOU
SEEN LADY CLAUDIA?



THINGS WERE JUST GET-
TING INTERESTING
BETWEEN US WHEN
CHARNEL INTERRUPTED.



YOU'LL HAVE TO SHARE MY
OTHER VICTIM WITH ME, MY
FRIEND. LADY CLAUDIA
GREW TIRED OF WAITING
FOR YOU AND WENT OFF
WITH COUNTESS ELIZABETH.





SABBAT... DOES
THAT FELLOW...
REQUIEM... REMIND
YOU OF THURIM?

THERE IS A CERTAIN
RESEMBLANCE, ATTILA.
ALTHOUGH THE LAST
TIME I SAW THURIM HE
LOOKED SOMEWHAT...
DIFFERENT.

YOU MEAN WHEN HE
WAS BEING PULLED
APART BY FOUR HELL
HORSES FOR ALL
ETERNITY?

IT WAS THE PRICE HE
PAID FOR BETRAYING
DRACULA.

THE COUNT MADE
HIM AN IMMORTAL
AND THAT WAS HOW
HE REPAID HIM.

IT'S THE SAME PROBLEM
WITH ETERNAL DAMNA-
TION, YOU GET USED TO
IT AFTER A WHILE.

WITH HIS KARMA,
HE'D HAVE SUFFERED
A THOUSAND FRESH
TORMENTS!

I HOPE SO.
THAT'S WHY I'M
ALWAYS ON THE
LOOK-OUT...

BUT IT WAS AN INTERESTING
USE OF HIS SPECIAL GIFT OF
REGENERATION, ALTHOUGH I
NOTICED HE WAS STARTING TO
OVERCOME THE PAIN AFTER
THE FIRST FIFTY TIMES.

IT'S WHY I WANTED HIS
SOUL TO GO BACK ON
THE WHEEL OF REIN-
CARNATION.

PERHAPS HE DID AFTER
HE MYSTERIOUSLY
EXPIRED.

... IN CASE THE CUNNING
BASTARD RETURNS IN A
NEW BODY.

I'M TOLD HE BELIEVES IN
HONOR AND CHIVALRY. HE
SAVED A YOUNG GIRL FROM
BEING TORTURED BY LADY
CLAUDIA AND LORD MORTIS.


WHAT? THAT'S
DISGUSTING!
WHAT A PER-
VERT!

BUT IT GIVES ME A
BETTER REASON TO
EXPIRE HIM!

ALTHOUGH I VERY
MUCH DOUBT
THAT REQUIEM IS
THURIM.

HE CAN'T BE THURIM.
THURIM WOULD HAVE
JOINED IN!

I HATE
PERVERTS!



PERVERT! I'M INTO MOST DEVIATIONS, BUT WHAT YOU DO IS TOO SICK!

TELL ME WHAT I AM ACCUSED OF SIR, AND I WILL EXPLAIN!

NOT ANOTHER INTERRUPTION! CAN'T ANYONE HAVE A QUIET DRINK AROUND HERE?

NO! SPARE ME THE DISGUSTING DETAILS OF YOUR PERVERSION!

HONOR AND CHIVALRY! THAT'S AGAINST THE LAWS OF HELL!

AHEM! FAR BE IT FOR ME TO DEFEND HIM, ATTILA.

BUT HIS PERVERSION MAY BE BECAUSE HE WAS ONLY RECENTLY MADE A KNIGHT.

THAT'S NO EXCUSE FOR PERVERSION, SABBAT.

AND WITH THE LEMURIAN CAMPAIGN GOING BADLY, WE NEED EVERY AVAILABLE KNIGHT.

HMM... YES!... THEN WE COULD TURN THIS PERVERT ON THE LEMURIAN PERVERTS! SO THE PERVERTS EXPIRE EACH OTHER!

YES, THAT WOULD MAKE SENSE!

BUT I'M WARNING YOU! KEEP AWAY FROM ME, YOU PERVERT!

I DON'T WANT TO CATCH SOME DISEASE OF GOODNESS!

SOMEHOW, I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE TO WORRY ON THAT SCORE, ATTILA.

AS "THE SCOURGE OF GOD", YOU ARE HEALTHILY FREE OF ANY KIND OF NOBILITY.

THANKS, BUT YOU CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL. I SHOULD BOOST MY IMMUNE SYSTEM WITH A COUPLE OF ATROCITIES!

COME HERE! I'M GOING TO EAT YOUR LUNGS!

WHO WOULD HAVE SUSPECTED THE ANTI-CHRIST WOULD HAVE SUCH STYLE?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, HEINRICH?

I THINK I'VE HAD ENOUGH, OTTO. I'M GOING TO CALL IT A NIGHT.

I UNDERSTAND, MY FRIEND.



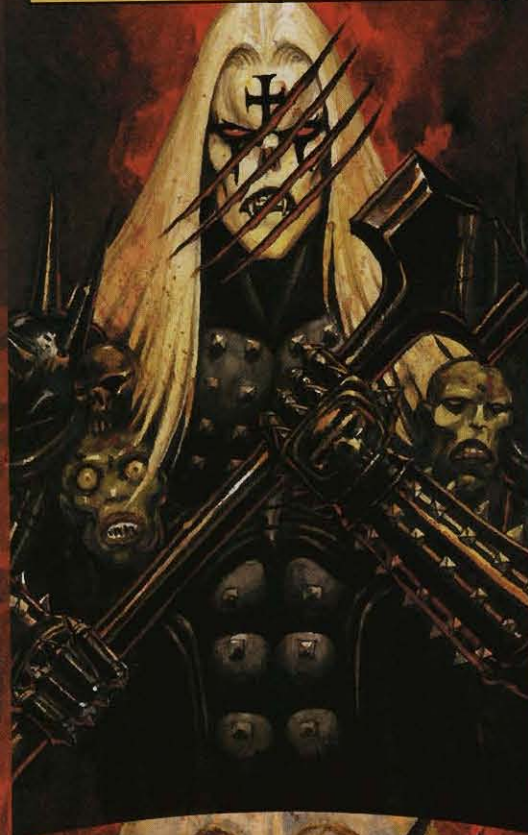
IN HIS EARTHLY INCARNATION, "THURIM" WAS A LEADER OF THE TEUTONIC KNIGHTS. KNOWN AS HEINRICH BARBAROSSA, HE SPREAD CHRISTENDOM TO THE LAST PAGANS IN RUSSIA, MASSACRING ALL WHO REFUSED TO BE CONVERTED.

DURING THE CRUSADES, HE STOLE THE THURIM- A MAGICAL HAMMER- FROM THE ARK OF THE COVENANT. AFTER HIS DEATH, HE BECAME A VAMPIRE AND FOUGHT FOR DRACULA AGAINST THE GODS OF THE LIMBOS. HOWEVER...



TELL ME ABOUT THURIM, DICTIONARY.


YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THURIM? YOU'RE RIGHT TO CONSULT MEEEE!



NO, I DON'T THINK I CAN TAKE THIS. ANOTHER TIME, DICTIONARY.

MMMFEEF!





MITRA WILL BE
HAPPY MOTHER
TERROR'S GONE.

YES, SHE WAS ALWAYS
AFRAID OF TERROR
TAKING OVER THE
GUILD OF PIRATES.



IT WAS OBVIOUS A CORRUPT
POLICE CHIEF ON EARTH
WOULD CHOOSE TO COME
BACK AS A PIRATE QUEEN ON
RESURRECTION.

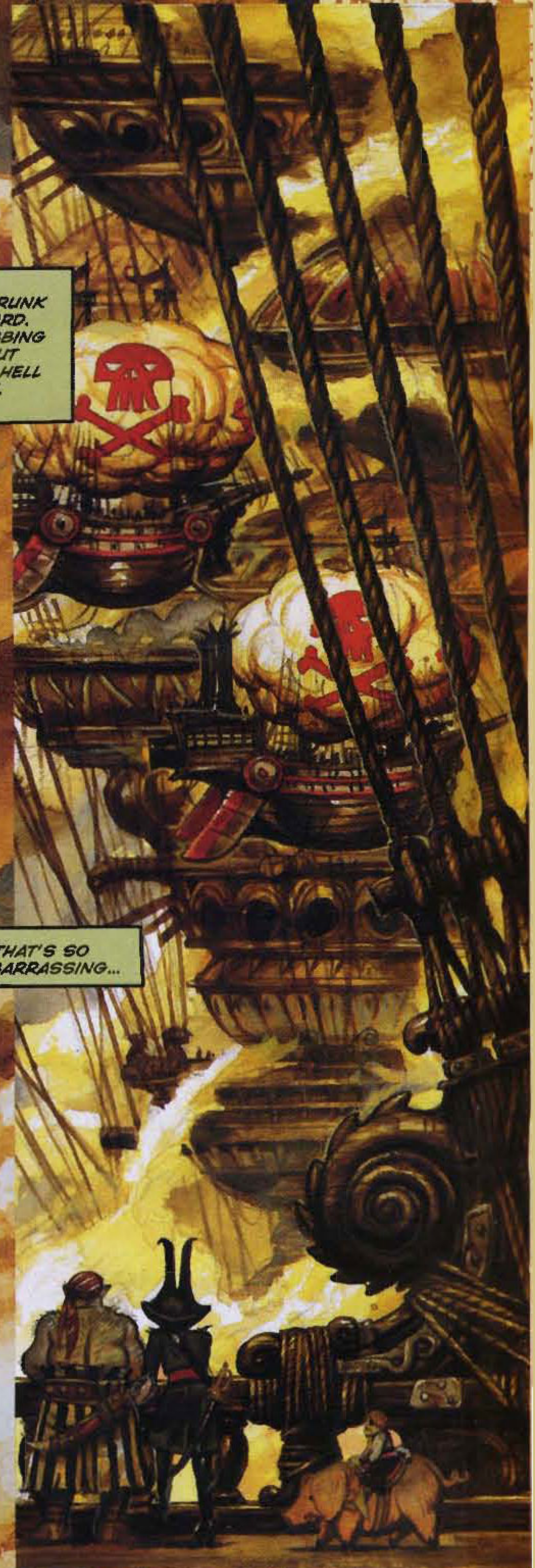
SHE UNDERSTANDS
THAT REALLY. SHE'S
JUST ATTENTION SEEK-
ING, AND SHE ENJOYS
BEING MISERABLE.

THEN SHE'LL
ENJOY OUR
REPORTS ON
THE BATTLE FOR
LONDON.

ALTHOUGH SHE'S FAR TOO
CLEVER TO EVER LET THAT
HAPPEN. ALL THOSE YEARS
OF BEING A COP HAVE
GIVEN HER A SUPERNAT-
URAL CUNNING.

EXCEPT WHEN SHE'S DRUNK
AND DROPS HER GUARD.
THEN SHE STARTS SOBBING
INTO HER RUM ABOUT
BEING SENTENCED TO HELL
FOR ALL ETERNITY.

THAT'S SO
EMBARRASSING...



IT WAS OBVIOUS A CORRUPT
POLICE CHIEF ON EARTH
WOULD CHOOSE TO COME
BACK AS A PIRATE QUEEN ON
RESURRECTION.

SHE UNDERSTANDS
THAT REALLY. SHE'S
JUST ATTENTION SEEK-
ING, AND SHE ENJOYS
BEING MISERABLE.

THEN SHE'LL
ENJOY OUR
REPORTS ON
THE BATTLE FOR
LONDON.

SUCH A DISASTER!
NO SLAVES AND
MOTHER TERROR AND
HER SHIP LOST.

THE QUES-
TION IS...

WHICH OF US WILL
MITRA CHOOSE TO TAKE
HER PLACE?



THANK YOU FOR YOUR
REPORTS, MOTHERS. INTEREST-
ING... I SHOULD HAVE SUSPECT-
ED MORTIS WOULD DOUBLE-
CROSS US.

TO BE FAIR, IT WAS
OTHER RESURREC-
TIONISTS, LOYAL TO
DRACULA, WHO
ATTACKED US.

THAT'S NOT THE
POINT. IT'S SOME-
THING MORTIS WAS-
N'T EXACTLY IN A
RUSH TO WARN US
ABOUT.

IT'S TIME DRACULA'S
PRINCIPAL OPPONENTS
GOT TOGETHER AND
DESTROYED THE COUNT,
IRRESPECTIVE OF MORTIS.

I'M SURE WE CAN,
THOUGH YOU NEVER
KNOW WHAT MAY HAP-
PEN AT THE COSMIC
HIGH TIDE.

AND IT WILL COST ALL THE
RESOURCES OF THE GUILD,
BUT WHAT THE HELL?

I AWAIT
YOUR
ORDERS,
MITRA.

AS INDEED
DO I, YOUR
HIGHNESS.

AH, YES... THERE'S
THE MATTER OF
MOTHER TERROR'S
SUCCESSOR...

WELL, IT WAS DIFFICULT TO KNOW
WHICH ONE OF YOU TO PROMOTE.
BECAUSE YOU KNOW HOW I
ALWAYS LIKE TO BE FAIR?

OH, INDEED, MITRA.
YOU ARE RENOWNED
FOR YOUR FAIRNESS.

I'M SURE YOU
CHOSE THE
RIGHT WOMAN
FOR THE JOB,
YOUR HIGHNESS.



THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T PICK
EITHER OF YOU.

I REALIZE IT MAY BE A BIT OF
A COMEDOWN AFTER THE HIGH
HOPES YOU'VE HAD, BUT YOUR
NEW COMMANDER COMES WITH
THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE QUALI-
FICATIONS.



WHO... WHO
IS SHE,
HIGHNESS?



WHEN SHE WAS ALIVE, SHE WAS THE PRESIDENT
OF VENUS IN THE TWENTY THIRD CENTURY. WHEN
CLONING FINALLY MADE MEN REDUNDANT.



HER POLITICAL CORRECTION PARTY CAR-
RIED OUT COMPULSORY STERILIZATIONS
ON THE GENDER-CHALLENGED.



ANY MALES BORN ILLEGALLY WERE TERMI-
NATED UNDER HER POLICY OF "ERASEMENT
FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY."



EXCELLENT! I'VE ALWAYS
ADMIRED FEMINIST HYPOCRISY.
IT'S EVEN MORE HYPOCRITICAL
THAN MOTHER TERROR'S DUBI-
OUS "DO-GOODING!"



SUPERB! SHE SOUNDS
LIKE A TRUE GHOUL! I
SHALL LOOK FORWARD TO
SERVING UNDER HER.



I'M SO GLAD YOU
APPROVE OF MY
CHOICE. SO LET
ME INTRODUCE
YOU TO...

LADY
VENUS!



I FAIL TO UNDER-
STAND THE REASON
FOR YOUR AMUSE-
MENT. LET'S GO TO
WORK, CAPTAINS.



REQUIEM...



REQUIEM...



REQUIEM...



YOU ROTTEN
SWINE!

NAZI!

MURDERER!

FILTH!

MANURE!

YOU BURNT US
ALIVE!

DON'T THINK YOU
CAN ESCAPE US,
BASTARD!

WE'LL HAUNT
YOU FOR ALL
ETERNITY!

GET AWAY! GET
AWAY FROM ME!

BURN IN
HELL, AS YOU
MADE US
BURN!

YOU'RE NOT
REAL! YOU'RE
GHOSTS!

GOT TO BLOCK
THEM OUT. FOR-
GET THE PAST.
BLACK OPIUM...!

OTTO WAS RIGHT. IT IS
NECESSARY TO FORGET
YOUR PAST.

THAT'S
BETTER.

REQUIEM...

REQUIEM...

DON'T THINK THE
OPIUM WILL STOP
US, REQUIEM.

FEEDRRRRRR

WE RECOGNIZE YOU,
THURIM, BARBAROSSA,
REQUIEM, WHATEVER YOU
CALL YOURSELF! FOR
YOU ARE DAMNED!

DAMN
PAGANS!

BURN IT
ALL!

BURN THEM
ALL!

THEY MUST SUFFER
FOR DENYING THE
ONE TRUE GOD!

YOU'LL SUFFER
FOR WHAT YOU'VE
DONE TO US,
THURIM!

THERE'S NO ESCAPE!
WE'LL HUNT YOU
THROUGHOUT TIME AND
SPACE!


WHICHEVER BODY
YOU'RE HIDING IN, WE'LL
FIND YOU!

OUR DESTINIES ARE INTER-
WOVEN! OUR PAIN BECOME
YOUR PAIN! OUR TORTURE
BECOMES YOUR TORTURE!

OUR DEATHS
BECOME YOUR
DEATHS!

NNN0000000000000000!





SO THESE LAMIAS
WILL CARRY ON
HAUNTING ME UNTIL
I EXPIRE?

OR THEY'VE DRIVEN YOU
CRAZY! THEN THEY'RE
NO LONGER YOUR VIC-
TIMS AND CAN LEAVE
RESURRECTION.

SO CHEER UP- YOU
KILLED AND TORTURED
SO MANY, IT SHOULDN'T
TAKE TOO LONG!

AND ALL YOUR TROU-
BLES WILL BE OVER!
HEE, HEE, HEE!

SHUT
UP!

SHUT UP!

SHIT! HERE
COMES OTTO!

NOT A WORD TO
HIM ABOUT ME
BEING THURIM.
DO YOU UNDER-
STAND?

OKAY! BY THE
WAY, WOULD YOU
LIKE TO KNOW
THE DIRT ON HIM!

NO THANKS- HE'S MY
FRIEND. BUT I STILL
CAN'T RISK HIM
KNOWING WHO I
REALLY AM.

OTTO! WHAT IS IT?
WHAT'S HAPPENED?

DRACULA'S FORCES HAVE BEEN
DEFEATED. THE BLACK OPIUM HAR-
VEST IS LOST. WE LEAVE FOR
LEMURIA IMMEDIATELY.

YESSS... IF HE
REPORTED YOU TO
DRACULA, WHO
KNOWS WHAT THE
COUNT WOULD DO
TO YOU THIS TIME!

IT'S NOT
GOOD,
HEINRICH.

BUT I SUGGEST
YOUR DICTIONARY
STAYS BEHIND.

I DON'T THINK HIS BAB-
BLING WOULD BE
APPRECIATED IF YOU'RE
LUCKY ENOUGH TO
MEET DRACULA.

YES... IF I'M
LUCKY ENOUGH!



WRONK!!



THAT'S THE
LAST ONE.



BUT THERE'LL BE
OTHERS. DRACULA
WILL WANT REVENGE
FOR THE DESTRU-
CTION OF THE BLACK
MONASTERY.

LET'S SEE HOW WELL
HIS VAMPIRES FIGHT
WITHOUT OPIUM TO
HELP THEM FORGET
THEIR CRIMES.



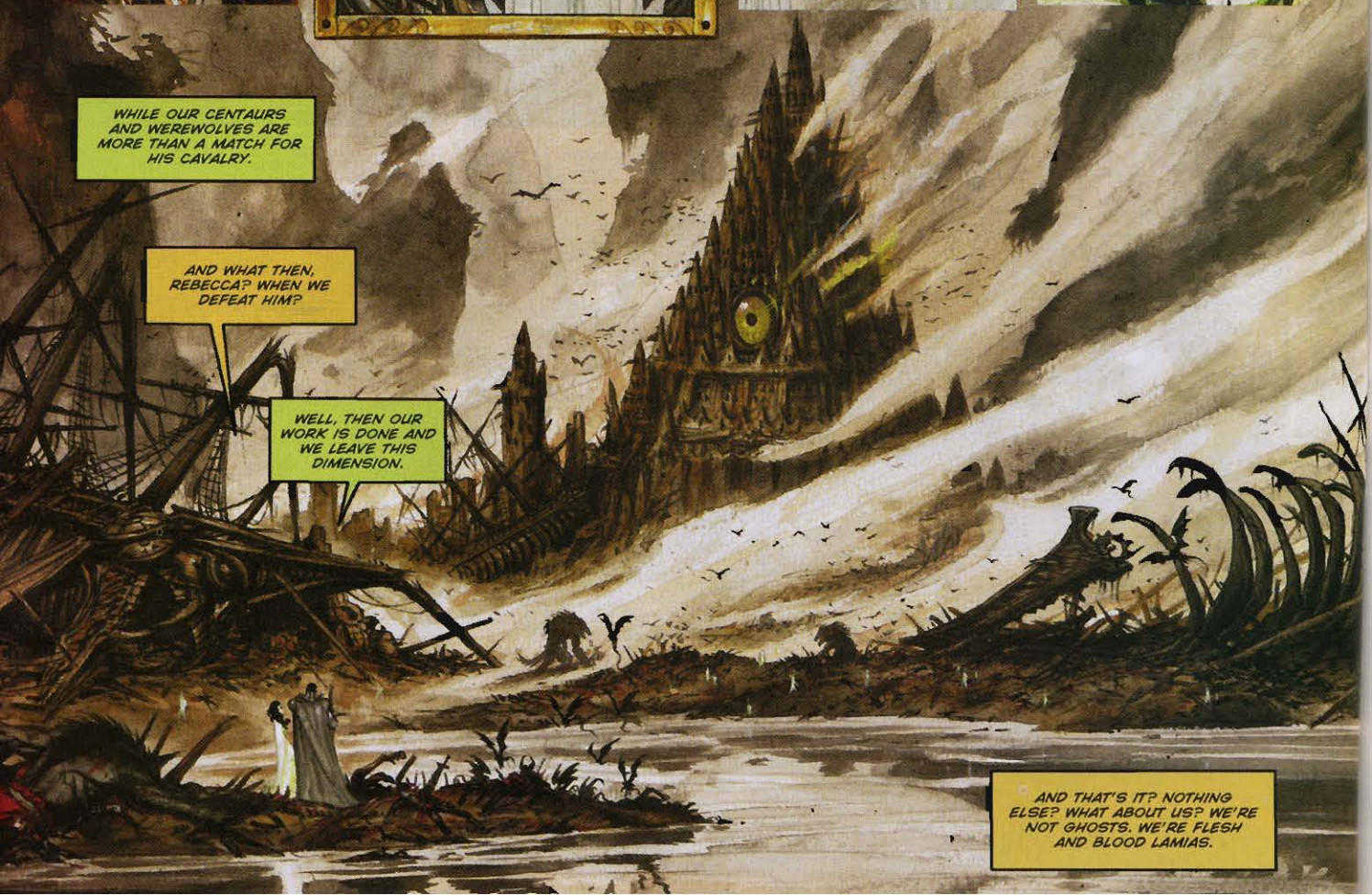
OUR HAUNTERS ARE
ENTERING THEIR
DREAMS, SO THEY
NEVER HAVE A
MOMENT'S SLEEP.

AND PHANTOMS ARE
GATHERING FOR AN
AERIAL ATTACK ON
THE COUNT'S SHIP.

WHILE OUR CENTAURS
AND WEREWOLVES ARE
MORE THAN A MATCH FOR
HIS CAVALRY.

AND WHAT THEN,
REBECCA? WHEN WE
DEFEAT HIM?

WELL, THEN OUR
WORK IS DONE AND
WE LEAVE THIS
DIMENSION.



AND THAT'S IT? NOTHING
ELSE? WHAT ABOUT US? WE'RE
NOT GHOSTS. WE'RE FLESH
AND BLOOD LAMIAS.

PLEASE, SEAN-
THERE IS NO
"US".

BUT YOU KNOW
HOW I FEEL
ABOUT YOU!

WANT KILL
MORE
UNDEAD!

GIVE ME A BREAK.
I HAVE TO SHUT
DOWN THE WERE-
WOLVES.

YOU ARE SPECIAL
TO ME, SEAN.

BUT NOW I KNOW THE
MAN WHO MURDERED
ME IS HERE...

HE'S CLEVER. HE
ESCAPED ME
ONCE.

BUT I'LL GET HIM
IN THE END.

THAT'S ALL THAT'S
ON MY MIND.

HOW ABOUT YOU? AND
THAT CRAZY BITCH
WHO SHOT YOU?

I NEVER STOP THINKING
ABOUT HER... HOW I
WANT TO MAKE HER PAY.

EXCEPT WHEN
I'M THINKING
ABOUT YOU.

I HAVE TO SORT OUT
A PROBLEM IN THE
KENNELS. THE PACK
LEADER. SOME OF HIS
VICTIMS HAVE REC-
OGNIZED HIM.



WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE HIM. HE'S THE MOST SAVAGE WEREWOLF WE'VE EVER HAD.

HOW DID IT HAPPEN?

DURING THE SACK OF THE BLACK MONASTERY, HE PUT ON A MONK'S ROBES AND REFUSED TO TAKE THEM OFF.

HE'S PROUD OF BEING AN INQUISITOR.

DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY JEWS HE HAD TORTURED AND BURNT AT THE STAKE?



THAT'S WHY HE'S SUCH A GREAT WEREWOLF. ALL THAT DARK HATRED INSIDE HIM.

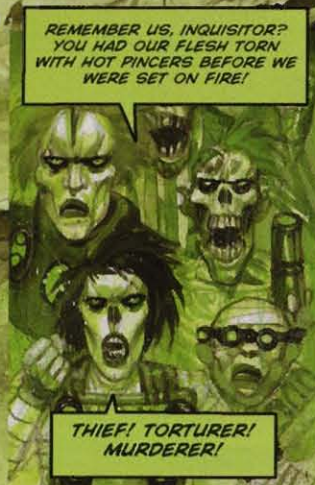


BASTARD!

BASTARD!

LET ME AT HIM!

BASTARD!



REMEMBER US, INQUISITOR? YOU HAD OUR FLESH TORN WITH HOT PINNERS BEFORE WE WERE SET ON FIRE!

THIEF! TORTURER! MURDERER!



COME OUT AND FACE US, TORQUEMADA!



PESTEM FUGAT HAERETICAM.

"MAY THIS PLAGUE OF HERETICS PASS."



LET US THROUGH!

I WAS JEWISH, TOO- SO I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL!



BUT WE NEED EVERY WEREWOLF WE'VE GOT!

DRACULA'S ABOUT TO COUNTER-ATTACK!



WE DON'T CARE ABOUT DRACULA! TORQUEMADA'S THE REASON WE'RE IN HELL!

WE EXPIRE HIM AND WE GET OFF RESURRECTION!

WE HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER! THAT'S WHY, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OUR HISTORY, WE DEFEATED DRACULA!

... BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU FIND THE NAZI COMMANDANT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?

AND YOU, SEAN? IF YOU EVER FOUND CLAUDIA, WOULD YOU GIVE A DAMN ABOUT LEADING THE CAVALRY?

HOW ABOUT GIVING HIM A PUBLIC WHIPPING?

WILL YOU CARE ABOUT DRACULA THEN?

FINE WORDS, REBECCA...

OKAY! OKAY! I GET THE POINT!

IT WOULDN'T WORK. HE WOULD METAMORPHOSIZE.

THE CYBER IMPLANT IN HIS BRAIN COULD NO LONGER SUPPRESS HIS LYCANTHROPIC SELF.

THE CRUELTY AND HATE THAT MADE HIM COME BACK AS A WEREWOLF.

BESIDES, KNOWING HIM, HE'D PROBABLY ENJOY IT!

I'M WAITING FOR YOU, CRUCIFIERS!

STILL THINKING ABOUT REBECCA?

YES. I CAN'T FORGET HER, NO MATTER WHAT.

FORGETTING THE PAST IS A PROBLEM FOR MANY NOSFERATU.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 108

Sepie's Garden

BY FURTADO

SEPIE!

SEPIE!

DINNER'S
ALMOST READY!
YOU BETTER GET IN HERE
AND WASH THEM GARDEN
BUGS OFF YOUR
HANDS!

SEPIE
ARE YOU
HEARING
ME?

SEPIE!

THERE, THERE
MY LOVELIES. A LITTLE
MEDICINE FOR YOU SO THOSE
DAMN BUGS DON'T DO
YOU ANY HARM.

AHHH,
YOU LIKE THIS
I CAN TELL.

SEPIE!

OH...
I...I HAVE
TO GO
NOW.

I'LL BE'
BACK MY
LOVELIES.

SEPIE!



ALL DAY!
ALL DAY YOU
SPEND IN THAT
FRIGGIN
GARDEN!

THE
PIGS HAVEN'T
EVEN BEEN FED
YET, SEPIE!

WHAT
IS SO GODDAMN
IMPORTANT ABOUT THAT
BUG-INFESTED WEED
PATCH?

CAN YOU
ANSWER ME THAT
SEPIE?

IS
THERE ANYBODY
HOME IN THAT HEAD
OF YOURS?

HRRM

HELLO!?



WHEN I GO TO THE MARKET, CHESTER THE BUTCHER LOOKS AT ME AND HE HAS LUST IN HIS EYES, SEPIE! LUST!

ONE OF THESE DAYS SEPIE I MAY JUST LET CHESTER TAKE ME AWAY AND YOU WILL BE ALL ALONE!

JUST YOU AND YOUR STUPID PATCH OF CRAB-GRASS AND YOU'LL...

DON'T YOU WALK OUT THAT DOOR SEPIE OR I'LL WHA...

SLAM!

SEPIE!

IT'S OK. SHE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND ABOUT HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO KEEP THE GREEN HEALTHY.

NOBODY CAN UNDERSTAND, NOBO...

YOU HAVE NURTURED ME AND KEPT THE BUGS FROM DOING ME HARM.

I CAN UNDERSTAND SEPIE, MY LOVE.

WHA..?

YOU HAVE LOVED ME LIKE NO OTHER.

NOW IT IS MY TURN TO LOVE YOU.



DO NOT BE AFRAID MY LOVER.

TOUCH ME... YES!

WE CAN BE TOGETHER NOW, SEPIE.

FOREVER.

SHHH.

I ...UHM OH!

OH.

WE'RE WE'RE SINKING!

YOU WILL NEVER HAVE TO LEAVE THE GARDEN MY LOVE.

EVER.

DON'T YOU WANT TO BE WITH ME, FOREVER?

YES

YES I DO.

SEPIE!

SEPIE!

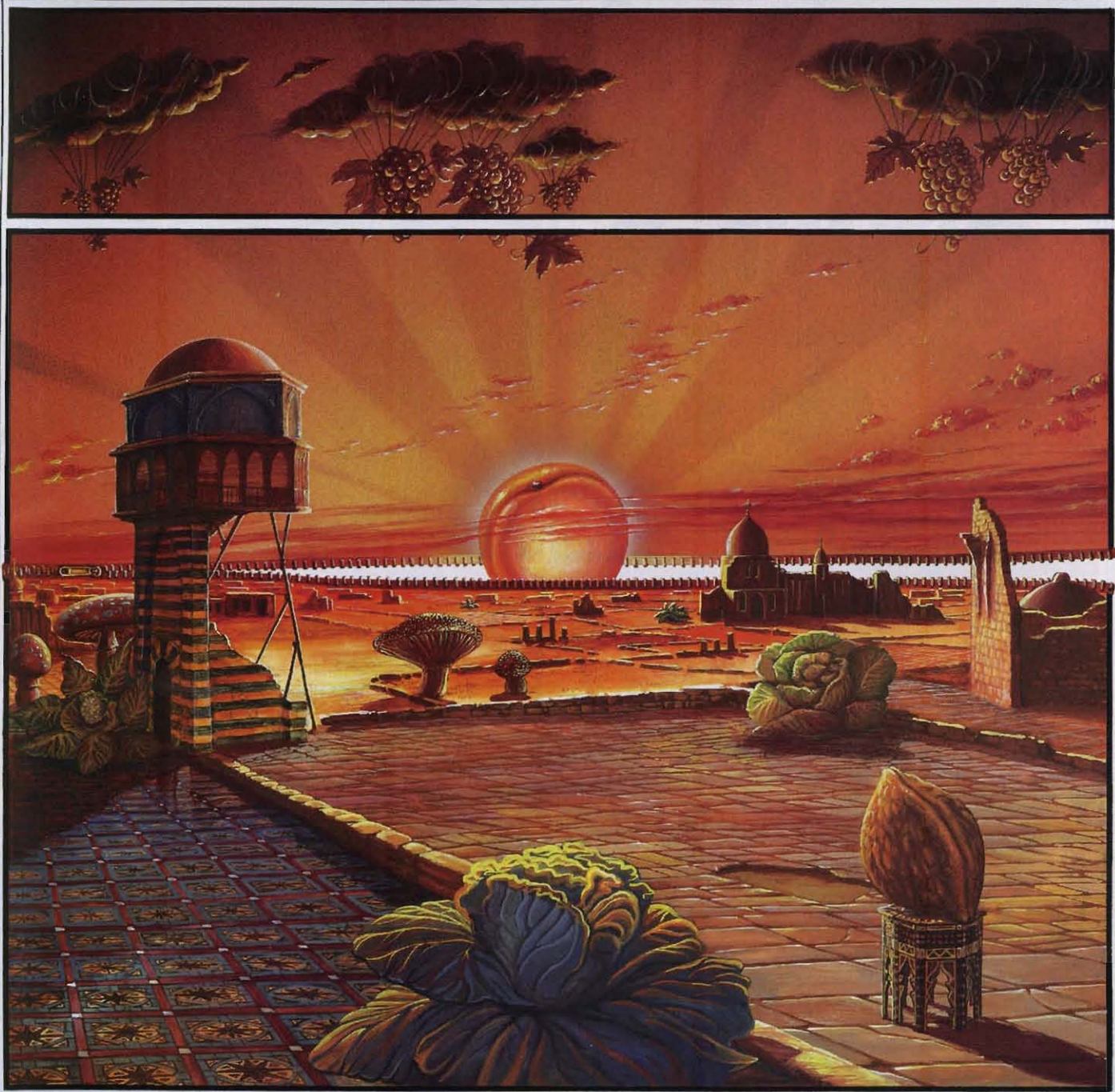
IT'S GETTING DARK! IF YOU DON'T COME IN HERE RIGHT NOW YOU CAN JUST STAY OUT THERE FOR EVER!

SEPIE, DO YOU HEAR ME?

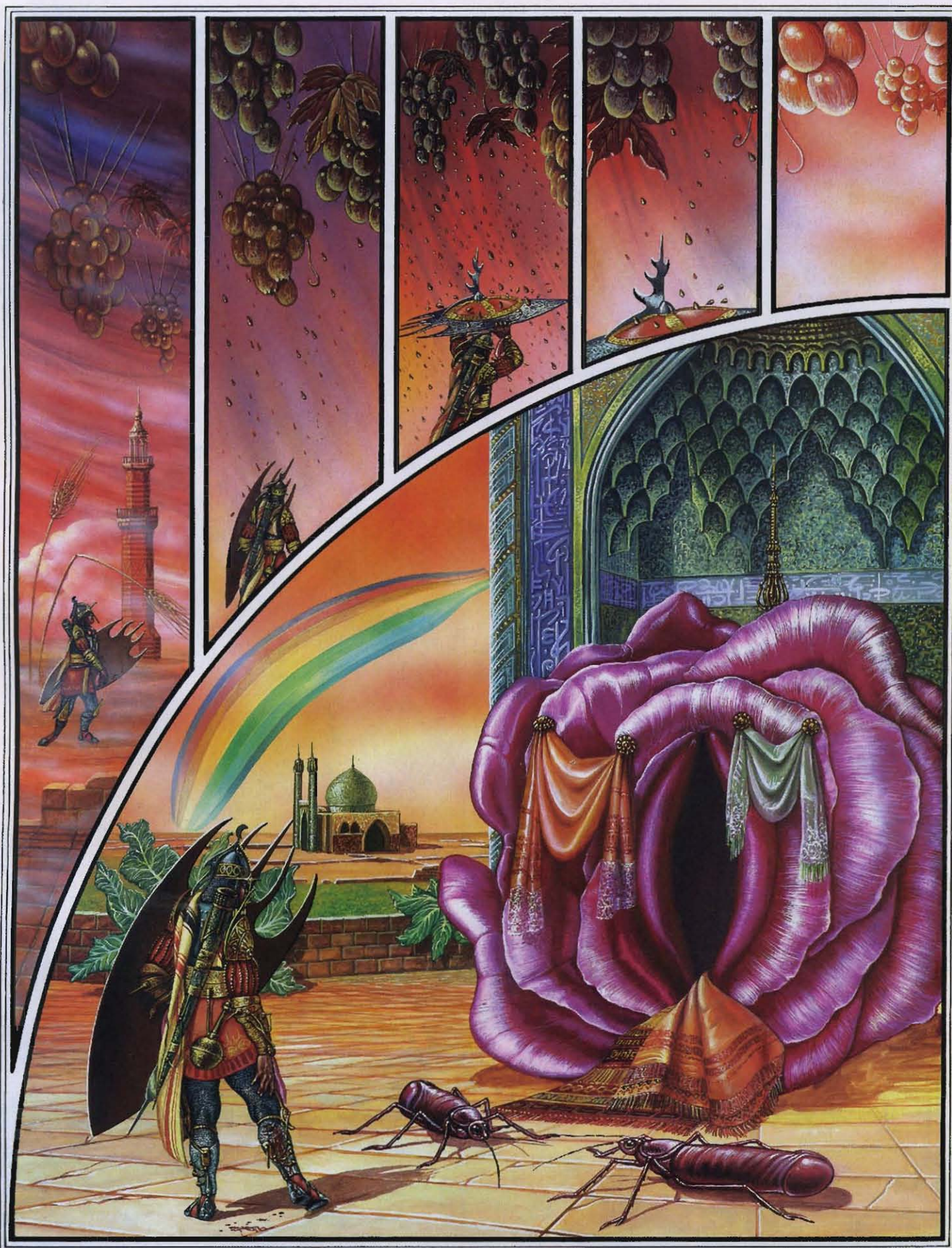


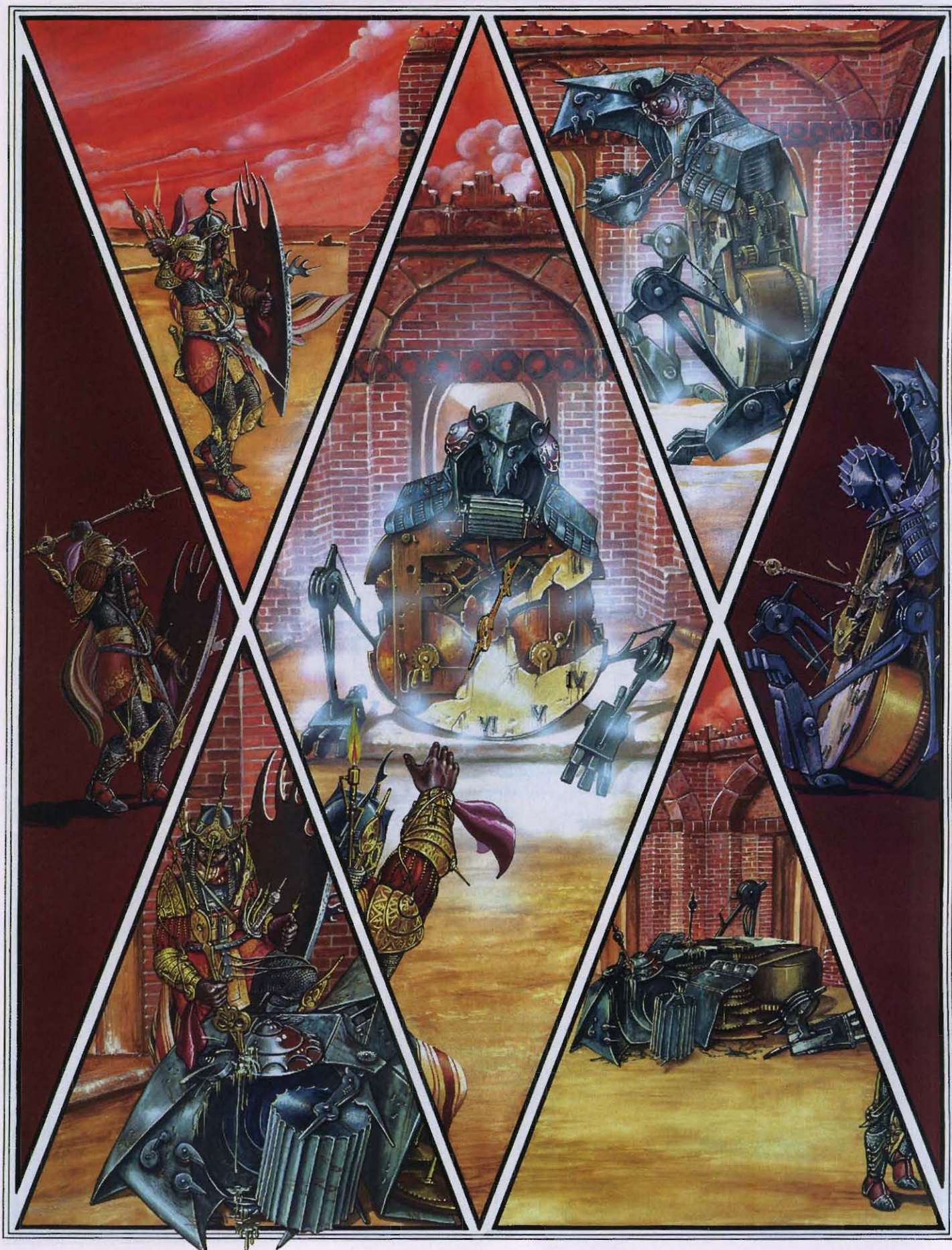
DISEÑO:
a. altarriba
DIBUJO:
l. royo

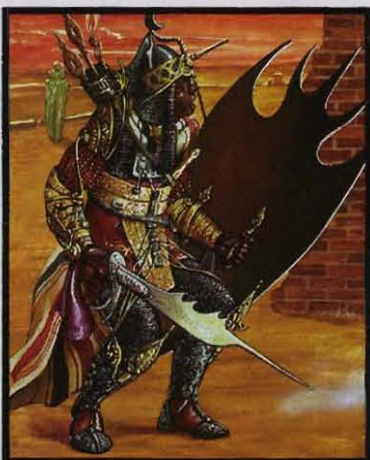
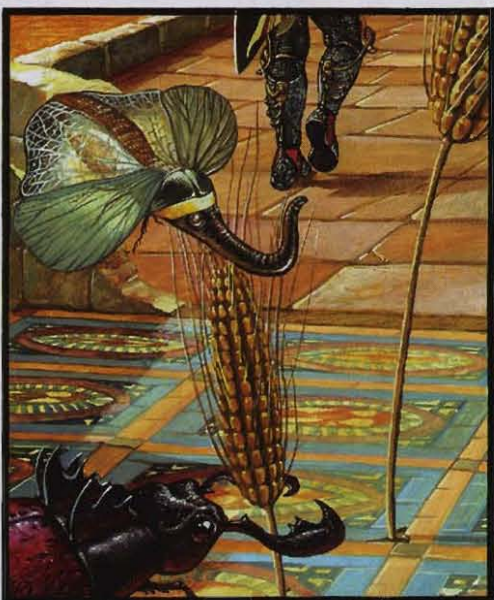
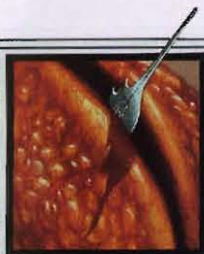




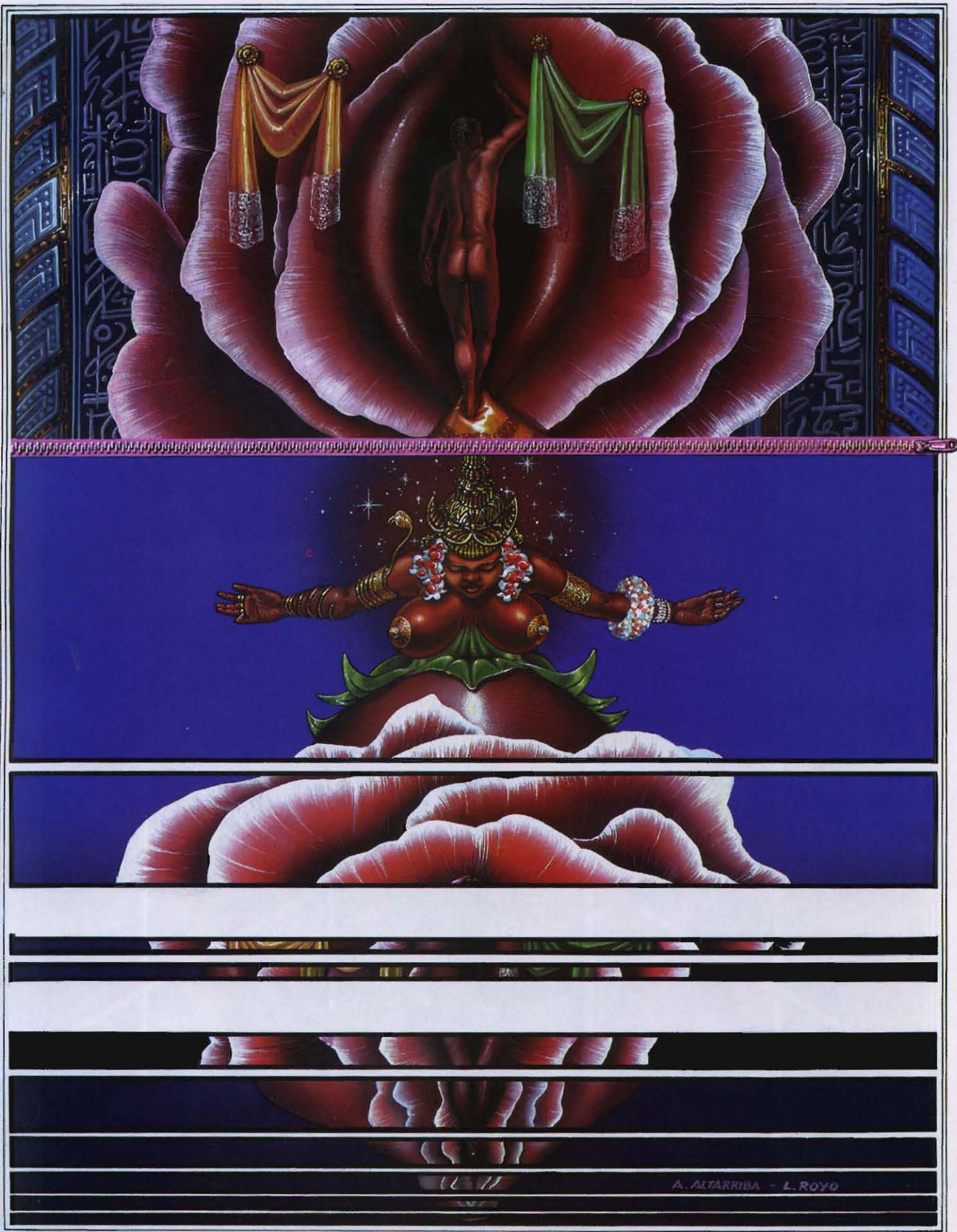








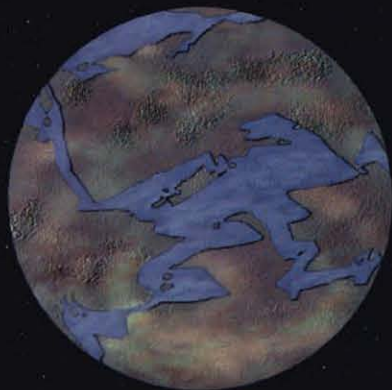




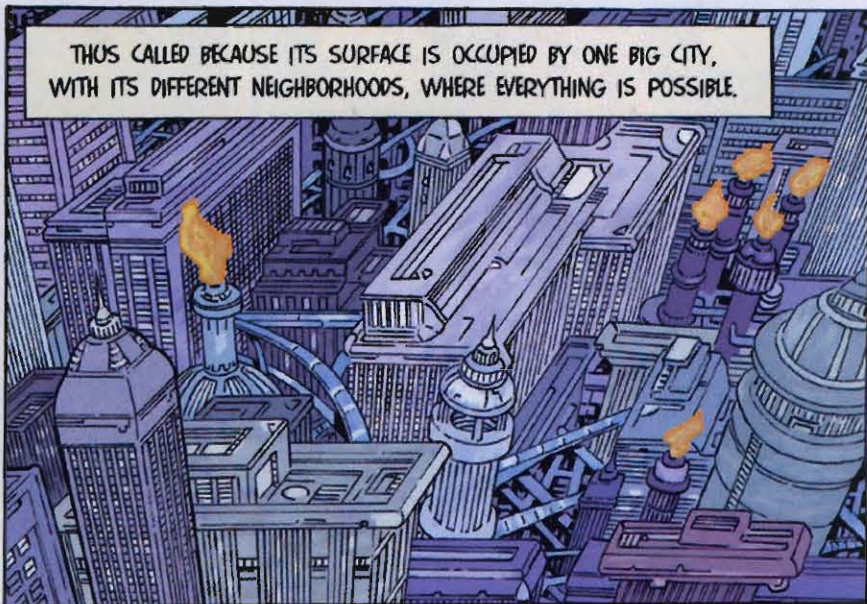
A. ALTARRIBA - L. ROYO

SINS OF THE FATHER

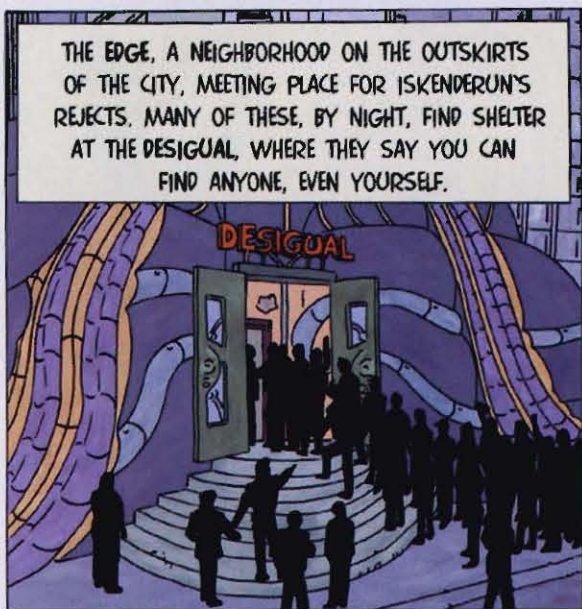
ISKENDERUN, THE CITYPLANET.



THUS CALLED BECAUSE ITS SURFACE IS OCCUPIED BY ONE BIG CITY, WITH ITS DIFFERENT NEIGHBORHOODS, WHERE EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE.



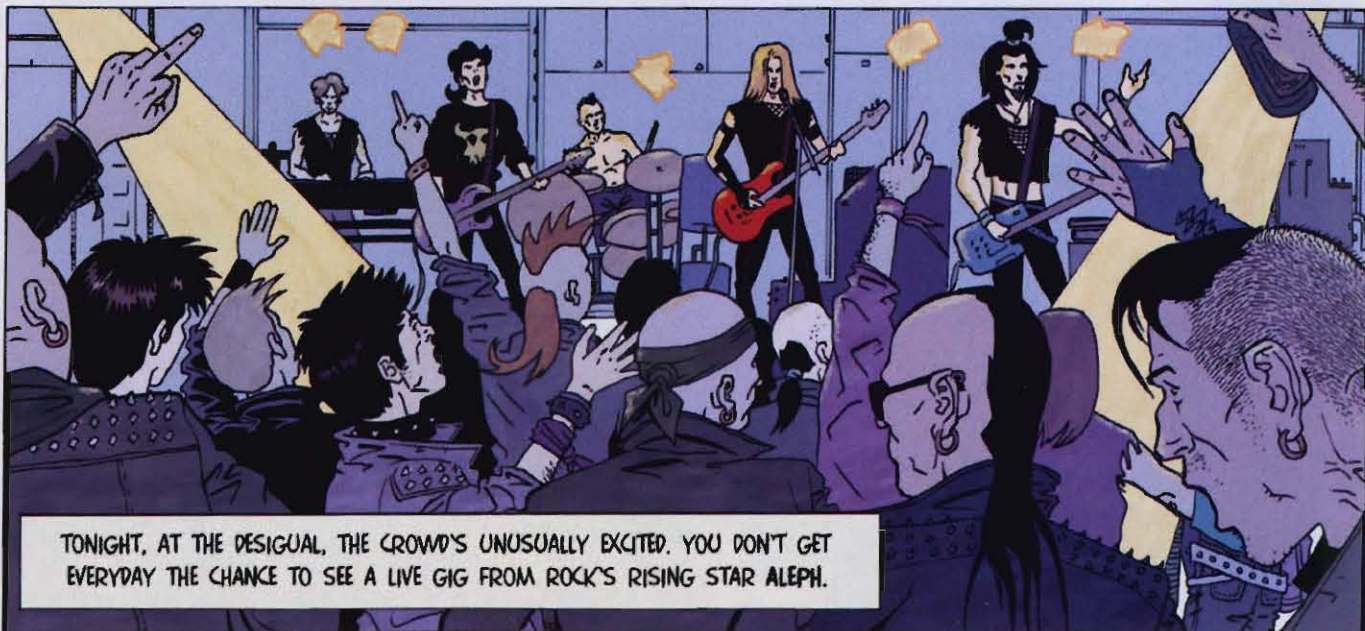
THE EDGE, A NEIGHBORHOOD ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY, MEETING PLACE FOR ISKENDERUN'S REJECTS. MANY OF THESE, BY NIGHT, FIND SHELTER AT THE DESIGUAL, WHERE THEY SAY YOU CAN FIND ANYONE, EVEN YOURSELF.



AND WHO HAS EVER BEEN THERE, KNOWS THAT IT JUST MIGHT BE TRUE.



TONIGHT, AT THE DESIGUAL, THE CROWD'S UNUSUALLY EXCITED. YOU DON'T GET EVERYDAY THE CHANCE TO SEE A LIVE GIG FROM ROCK'S RISING STAR ALEPH.





Look at them, they're delirious. They're euphoric just for my presence. But it should be me being grateful. They allow me to escape from myself.



And tonight I have already found somebody whose loneliness will mix with my own. At least for a while.



They think I'm special. But I'm not. They are special, even if this is not the way I always thought about it.



There was a time when I was absolutely certain that my destiny on this planet was to teach them how to live.



No more. Now I know that these fragile and imperfect creatures have a lot to teach me.

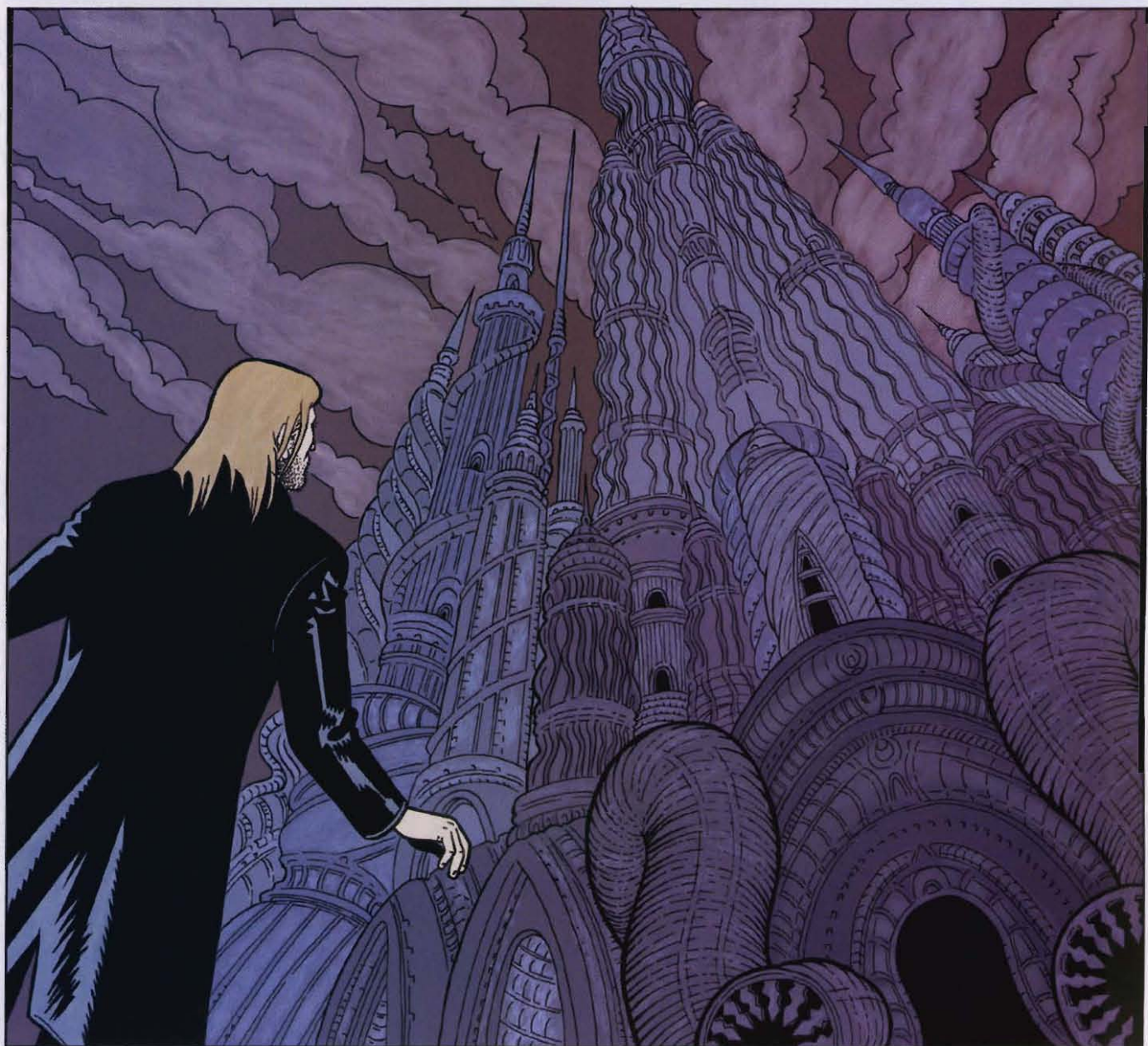


On mornings like these, when the sun shines so faintly, like a forgotten memory, I almost think I've done it, that I have left my past behind me forever.



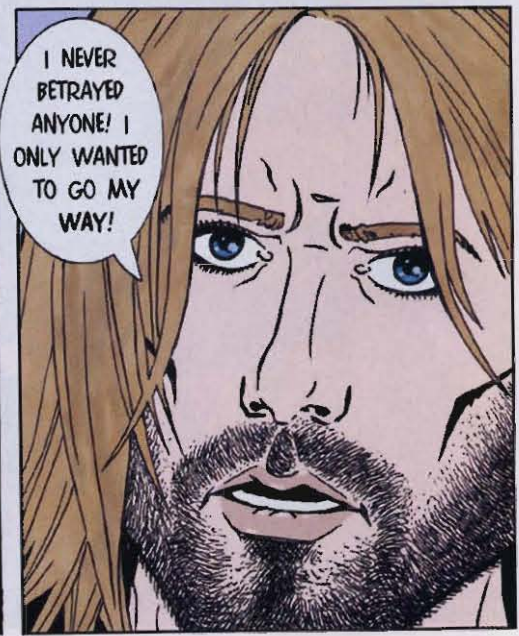
DID YOU FORGET ABOUT YOUR FATHER, ALEPH? DID YOU FORGET WHY YOU WERE BORN?

But then I hear *his* voice and understand that it was only a matter of time. He would have reached me anyway, sooner or later.





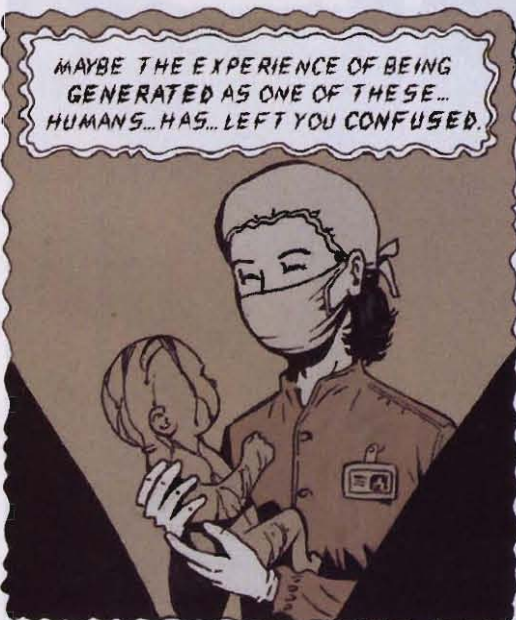
WHY DID YOU
BETRAY ME, SON?



I NEVER
BETRAYED
ANYONE! I
ONLY WANTED
TO GO MY
WAY!



YOUR
WAY?
LET ME
REMIN
YOU WHICH
ONE IT
REALLY
IS.



MAYBE THE EXPERIENCE OF BEING
GENERATED AS ONE OF THESE...
HUMANS...HAS...LEFT YOU CONFUSED.



I LET THEM TO GIVE BIRTH AND
TO REAR YOU AS ONE OF THEM
ONLY BECAUSE I WANTED IT
TO BE EASIER FOR YOU TO GAIN
THEIR TRUST. AND YOU DID WELL.



THESE CREATURES
NOW LIVE WITHOUT RULES.
FALLEN PREY TO THEIR
INSTINCTS

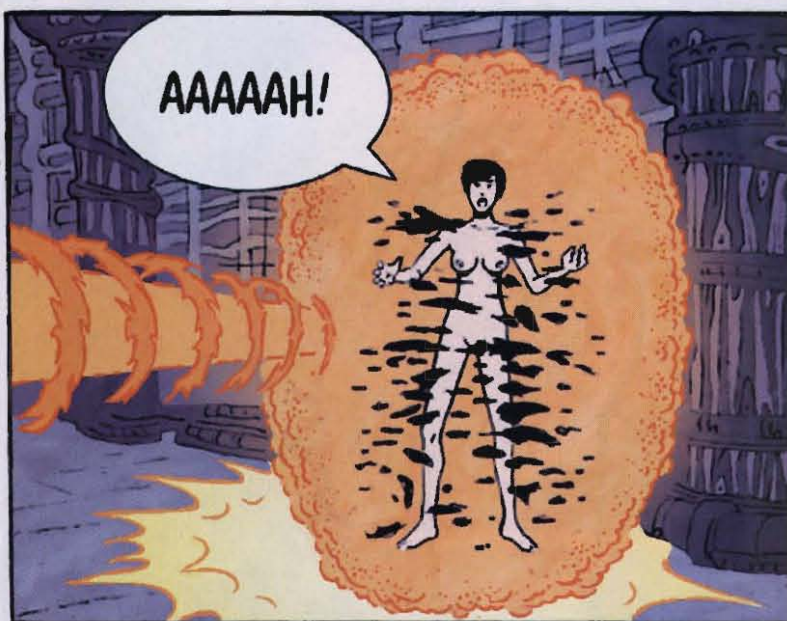
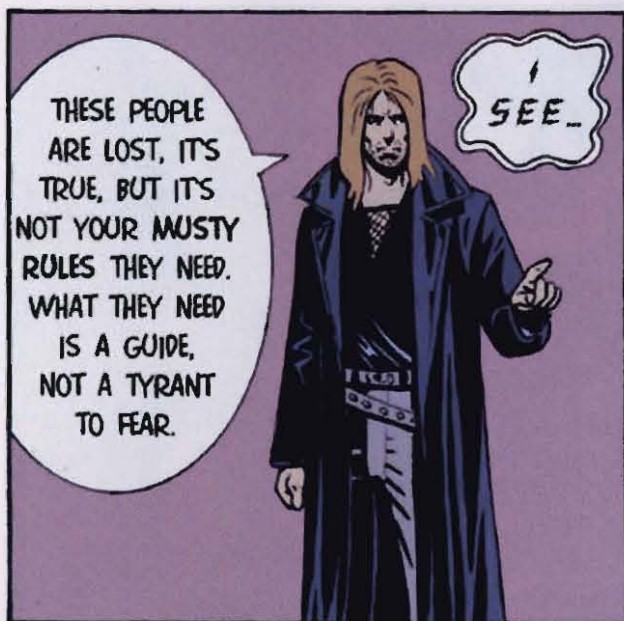


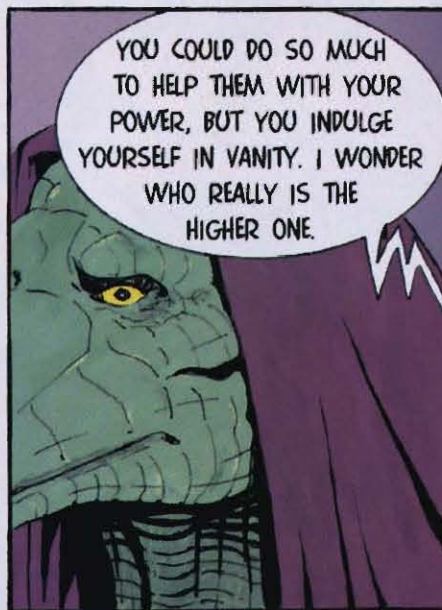
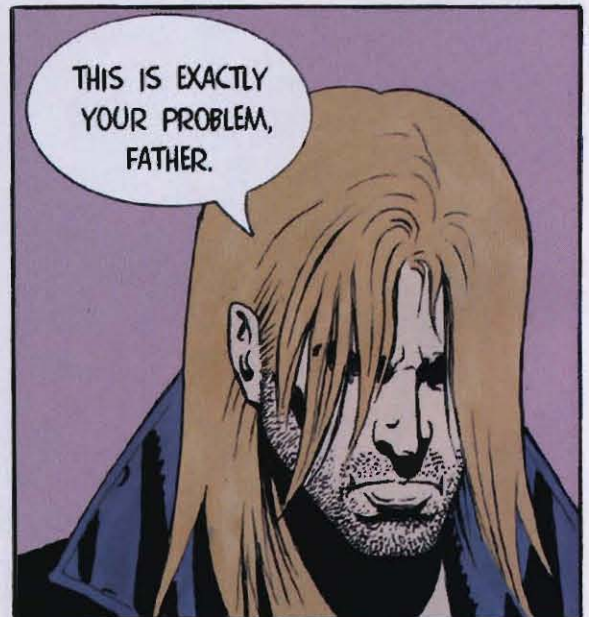
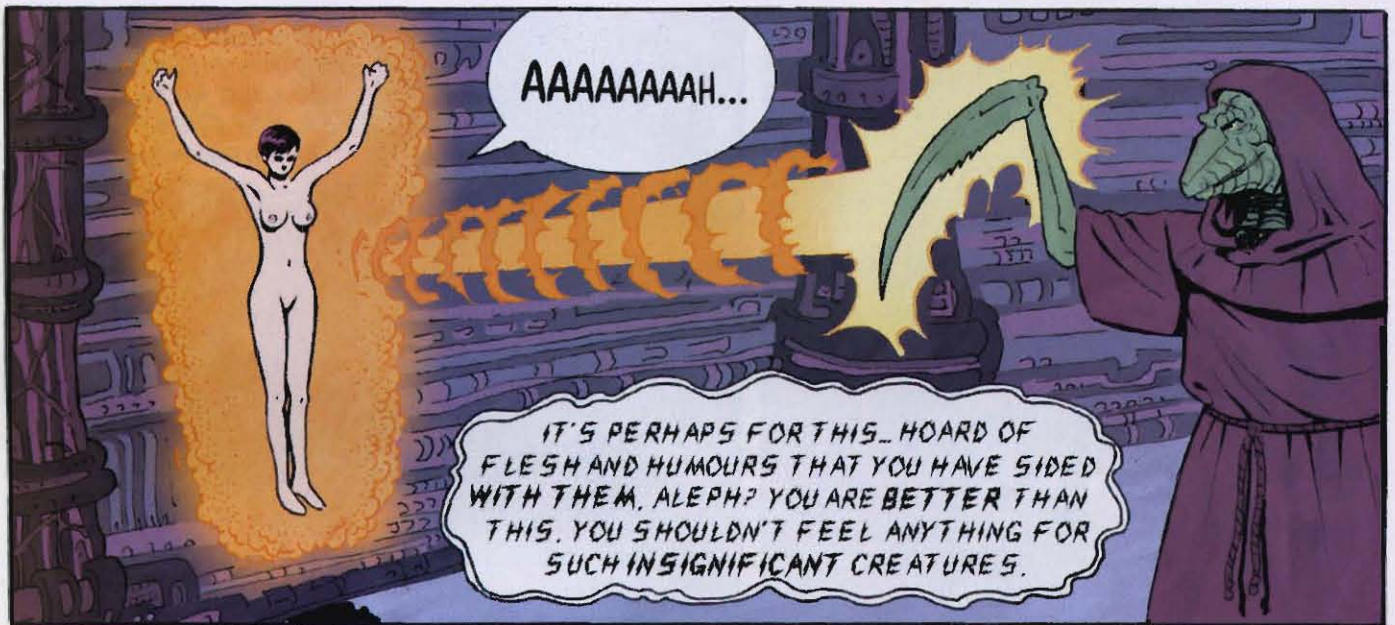
THEY HAVE EVEN STOPPED
TO HONOUR MY MINISTERS.

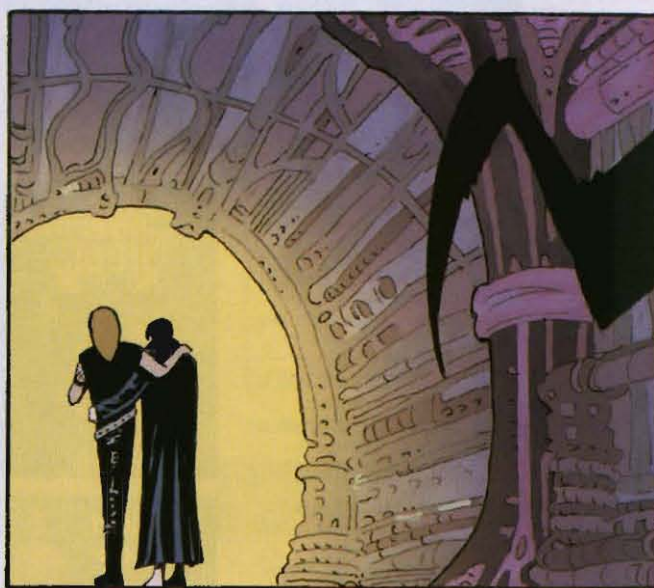
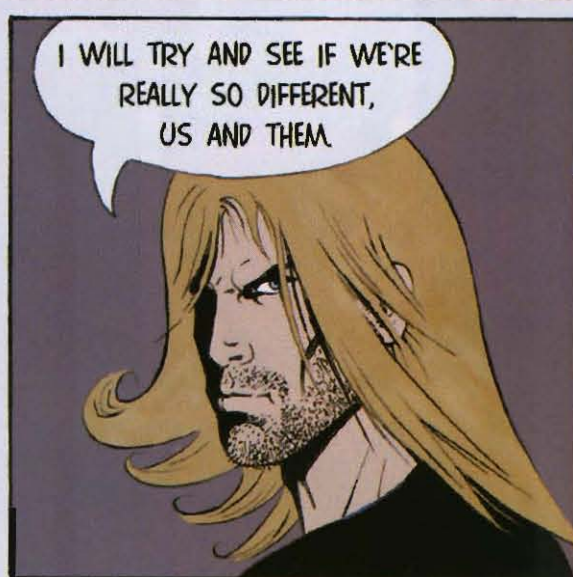


BUT NOW THE TIME HAS COME FOR
ALL OF THIS TO CHANGE. MY SON!









SINS OF THE FATHER

story by SILVIO SCHIRRU
art and lettering by RAFFAELE MARINETTI
colors by ELENA SANJUST
translation by NICOLA D'AGOSTINO

Hell, 3-12-1943

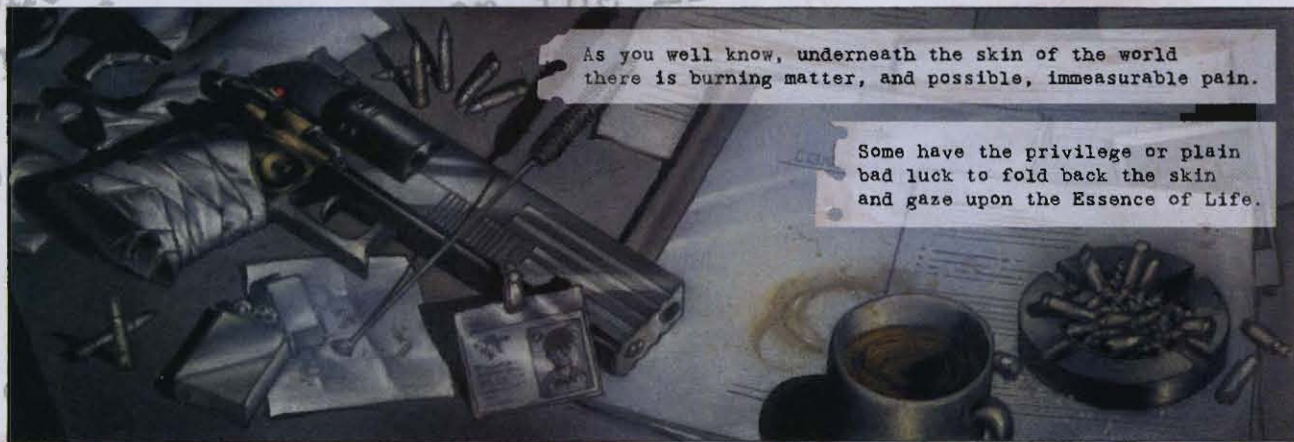
Dear Joel,

I'd like now to see ~~xxxxxx~~ surprise on your face.
How is it to get mail from Abraham Kerres,
for years one of the most sought-after murderers?

You ~~xxxxxx~~ chase me, and I know so much
about you that so far I have been able to elude you.

I'd very much like to meet you, but before you can
arrest or kill me, please ~~xxxxxx~~ acknowledge that
there's a thing we must exchange, and this is why I'll
tell you where to find me.





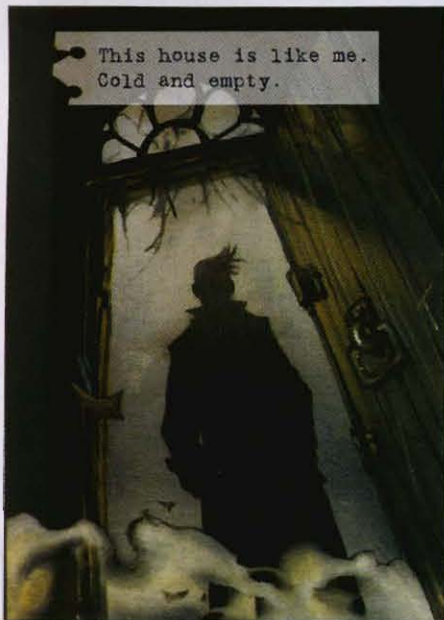
I am one of the skinless, turned inside out, ever burning. So please join me quickly, for I am letting go...

SIX SECONDS In Hell

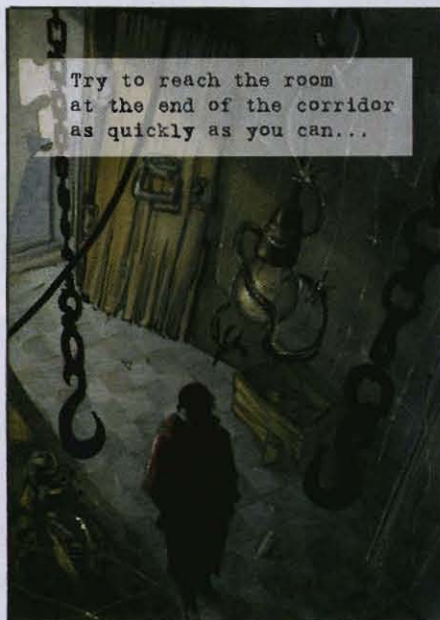


I have been planning our get-together for some time now.

I hope you will come alone. Otherwise, you and the cops will only find a miserable corpse.



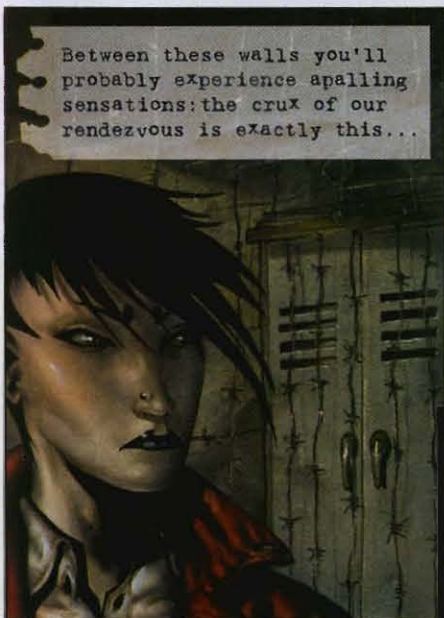
This house is like me. Cold and empty.



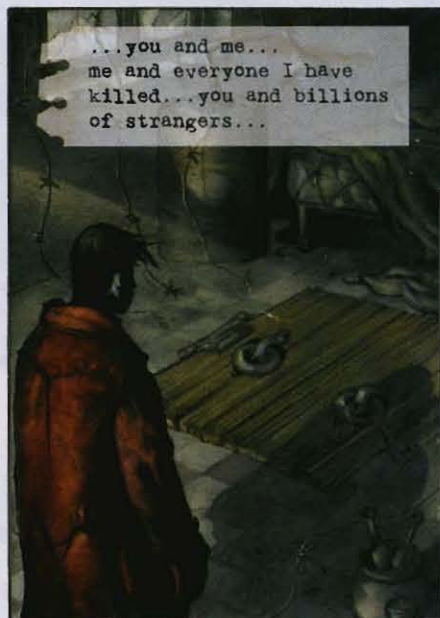
Try to reach the room at the end of the corridor as quickly as you can...



Someone watches over your every step, but only to ensure no one disturbs us.



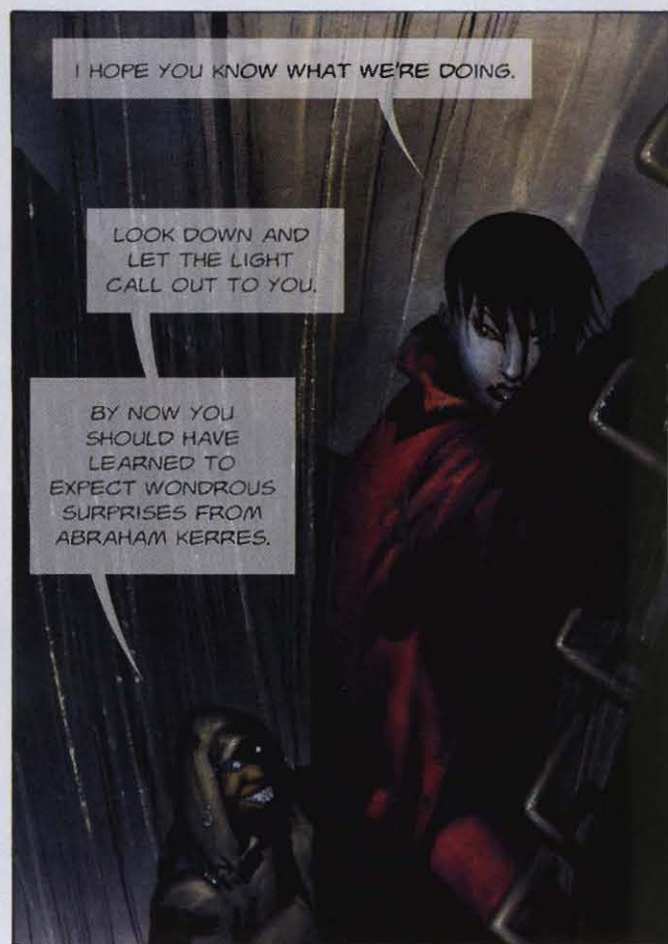
Between these walls you'll probably experience appalling sensations: the crux of our rendezvous is exactly this...



...you and me... me and everyone I have killed... you and billions of strangers...



...We all look the same from the inside!





GREAT FERRYMAN,
CAN YOU BESTOW THE
HONOR OF YOUR ASSISTANCE
ON TWO HUMBLE HUMANS?

MY GOD! OH, MY GOD...

YOU AGAIN!



I HAVE ADMONISHED
YOU BEFORE, ABRAHAM,
AND STILL YOU BRING
STRANGERS HERE?

WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.
TAKE US TO THE OTHER SIDE.



YOU BOTH ARE ACTING
UNWISELY, KNOW THIS...

WHERE ARE WE?
WH...WHAT ARE
THOSE THINGS?

IT'S OUR PATH,
JOEL, TOWARDS
THE TRUTH.



THIS PLACE...
IT'S SO WEIRD!



HAVE NO FEAR, JOEL.
AS LONG AS
YOU ARE MY GUEST!

NOTHING CAN
HAPPEN TO YOU...

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND...



YOU SOON
WILL LEARN...

... THAT I'M ABOUT
TO OFFER YOU A GIFT.

WHAT COULD
YOU POSSIBLY
EVER GIVE ME?



MYSELF!

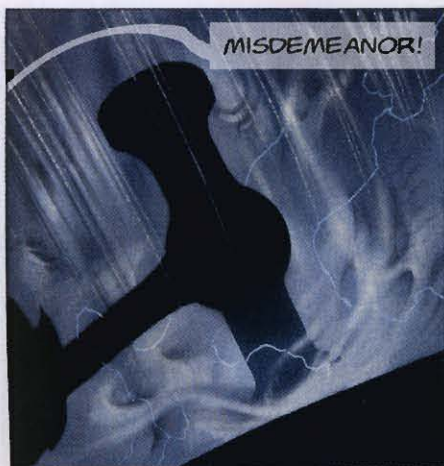
COME! THE SPIRES OF
JUDGMENT AWAIT YOU.



THIS... IS YOUR MADNESS.
MAYBE I'M DREAMING...

YOU'RE ALMOST
THERE, JOEL.
FINDING DELIVERANCE
IS EVERYBODY'S DREAM.

MY DREAM...
YOURS.



MISDEMEANOR!



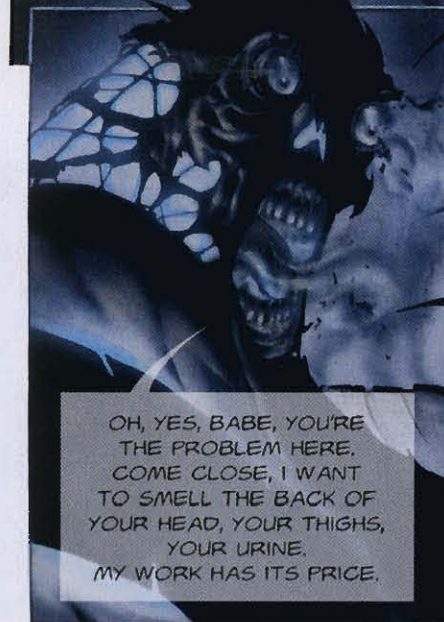
ABRAHAM!
YOU'RE GUILTY OF ANOTHER
BREACH OF THE RULES!

I AM MY OWN RULE, JUDGE.
YOU ARE JUST A SYMBOL.

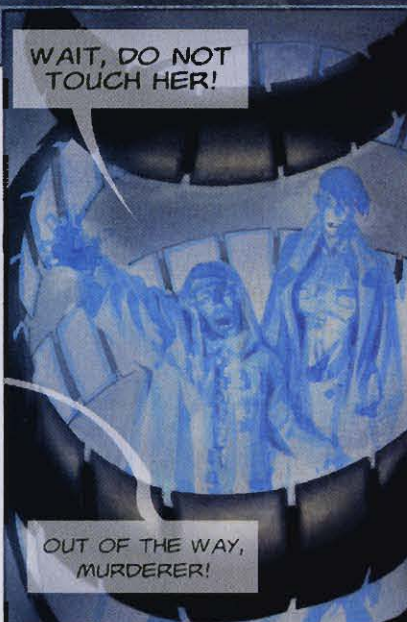


YOU DO THIS FOR
CHARITY'S SAKE, I KNOW.

YOU ARE REVOLTING!



OH, YES, BABE, YOU'RE
THE PROBLEM HERE.
COME CLOSE, I WANT
TO SMELL THE BACK OF
YOUR HEAD, YOUR THIGHS,
YOUR URINE.
MY WORK HAS ITS PRICE.



WAIT, DO NOT
TOUCH HER!

OUT OF THE WAY,
MURDERER!



JOEL IS MY GUEST.
WE WANT HER TO EXERCISE
FREE WILL SO AS TO...



SILENCE!
I WILL DO WITH
JOEL AS I WISH!

NO!



H..HELP ME,
ABRAHAM!

DELIVERANCE.
WE NEED IT.



AAAAAAHRRR!!!

DELIVERANCE
IS THE KING OF
PENTACLES!



THIS IS JOEL'S BLOOD.
IT'S THE PRICE SHE
PAYS FOR WHAT ROTS
INSIDE HER SOUL.



JUDGE, I DEMAND
A SIMPLE CONNECTION...
BETWEEN TWO EXISTENCES...



... BOTH CAST ON THE
SAME CROSS. WE ARE
UNDER MY SKIN. SEE, A DOOR
OPENS INSIDE OF HER...

I'M... DYING, BUT I FEEL NO PAIN...
TH-THAT LIGHT... IS SO BEAUTIFUL!



... NOW
THE TRANSITION...
TAKES PLACE!



YOUR FATHER, YOUR MOTHER.
THIS IS YOUR CHANCE, JOEL.
YOU CAN MAKE THINGS RIGHT.
ACCEPT THEM, FORGIVE THEM.
YOU CAN DO IT.

IT'S NOT REAL!
IT'S NOT REAL!
IT'S NOT REAL!



I... I NEVER KNEW WHY THEY DIED
I WAS JUST A LITTLE GIRL...

DO NOT THINK,
NOW. ACT!



IT IS TIME TO
REMOVE THE RUST.

WHAT DOES
IT MEAN?
I CAN'T EVEN
LOOK AT THEM...



ACCEPT THE TRUTH.
GIVE YOUR PAIN A FACE,
EVOKE YOUR CONSCIENCE
AND HEAL YOUR SOUL.





OR THIS WILL REMAIN
YOUR HELL, JOEL!

NNNNNOOOOO!!!



THIS IS AN OUT OF
BODY PERCEPTION
OF YOUR
SPIRITUAL BEYOND.
IT CAN TAKE PLACE
DURING TEMPORARY
COMA, OR JUST
BEFORE DEATH.
IT LASTS
SIX SECONDS.

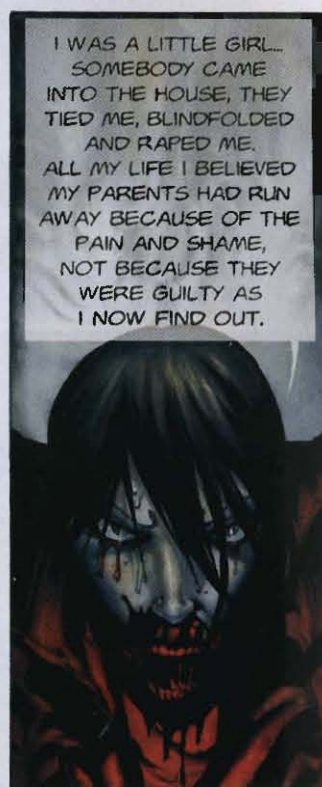


THE SOUL YOU
BUILD IN LIFE IS
YOUR AFTERLIFE.
NOW WE ARE
WITHIN YOU AND
YOU CAN MAKE
SOME REPAIRS.
PLAY YOUR HAND!
NOW!

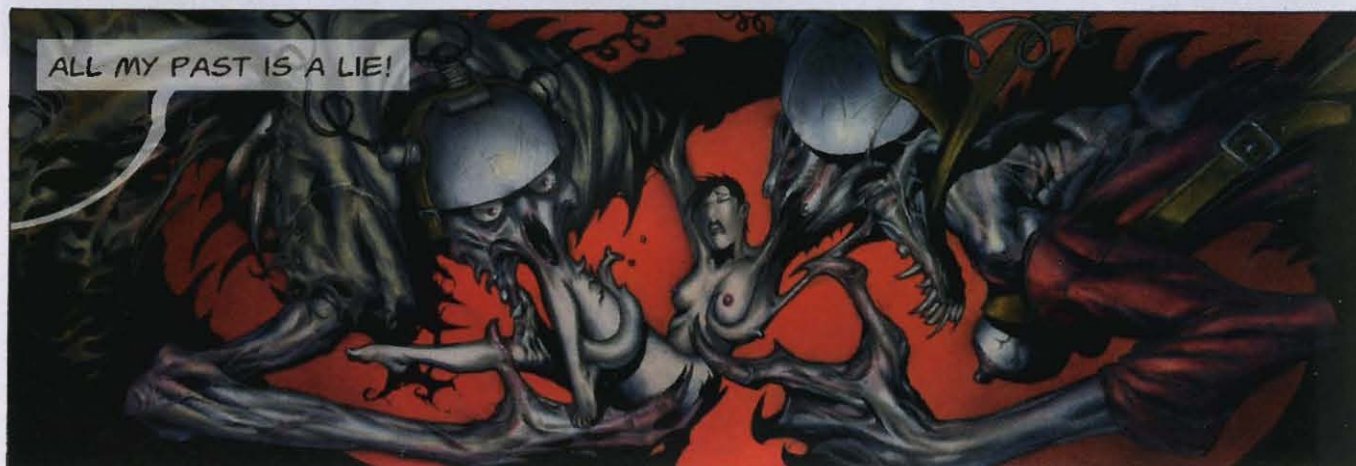


YOUR TIME IS
RUNNING OUT, JOEL.
WE'RE ABOUT TO
GO BACK TO
THE SURFACE.
WHAT ARE YOU
WAITING FOR?

I... I THINK
I SEE VERY
CLEARLY NOW.



I WAS A LITTLE GIRL...
SOMEBODY CAME
INTO THE HOUSE, THEY
TIED ME, BLINDFOLDED
AND RAPED ME.
ALL MY LIFE I BELIEVED
MY PARENTS HAD RUN
AWAY BECAUSE OF THE
PAIN AND SHAME,
NOT BECAUSE THEY
WERE GUILTY AS
I NOW FIND OUT.



ALL MY PAST IS A LIE!



JOEL, YOU'RE DROPPING EVERYTHING. ARE YOU AFRAID TO INTERVENE? I'D BE DISAPPOINTED!



YOU! FILTHY KILLER! WHO ASKED YOU TO DO THIS?!

IF I SAVE YOUR SOUL, PERHAPS GOD WILL HAVE MERCY FOR MY SOUL!

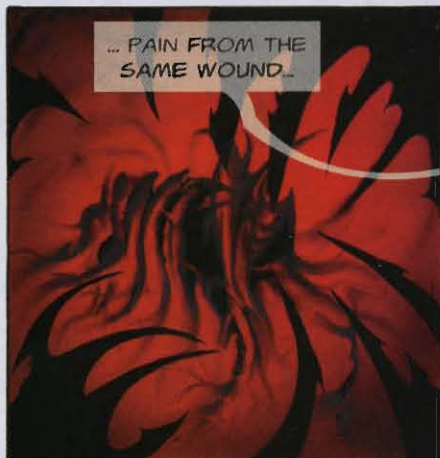


WHEN I FOUND OUT EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU, JOEL, I HAVE SO DESIRED TO HELP YOU.

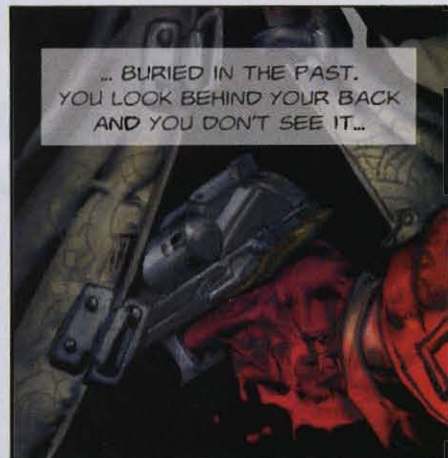


WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO? TELL ME!

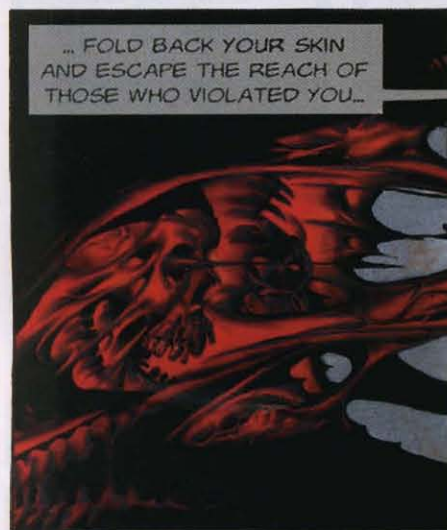
UNDER OUR SKINS, WE SHARE THE SAME PAIN, JOEL...



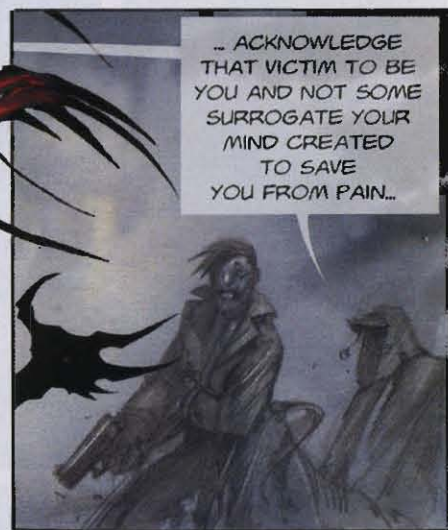
... PAIN FROM THE SAME WOUND...



... BURIED IN THE PAST. YOU LOOK BEHIND YOUR BACK AND YOU DON'T SEE IT...



... FOLD BACK YOUR SKIN AND ESCAPE THE REACH OF THOSE WHO VIOLATED YOU...

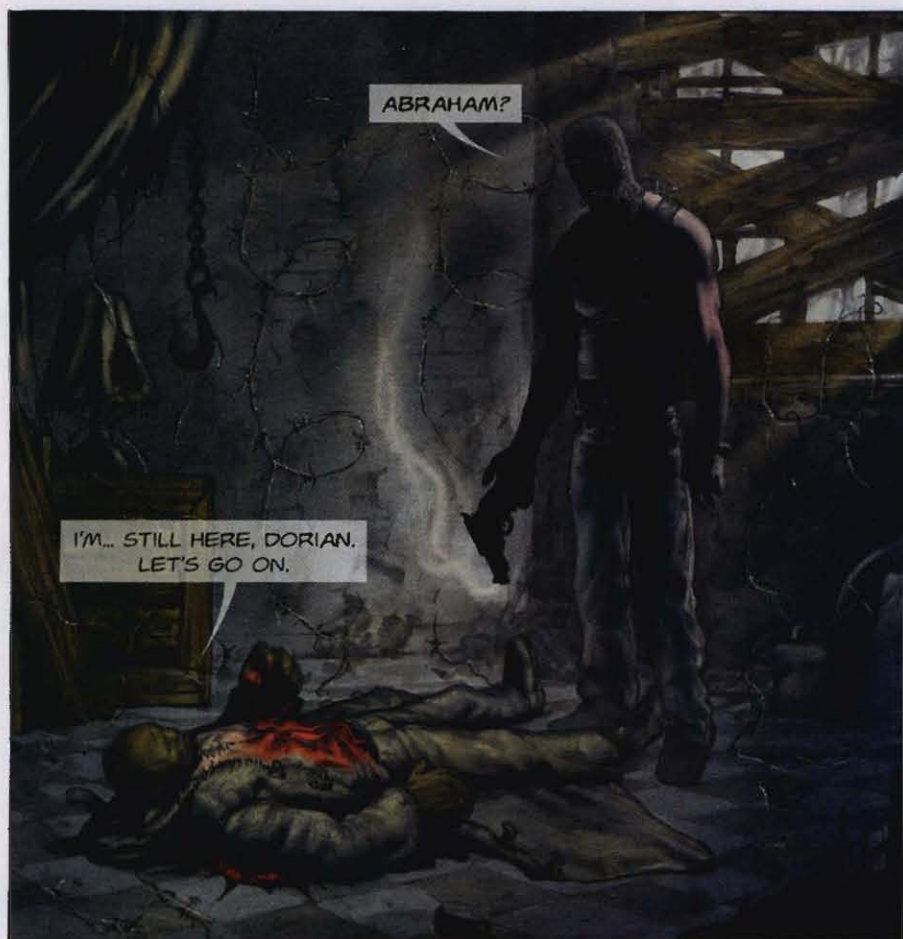


... ACKNOWLEDGE THAT VICTIM TO BE YOU AND NOT SOME SURROGATE YOUR MIND CREATED TO SAVE YOU FROM PAIN...



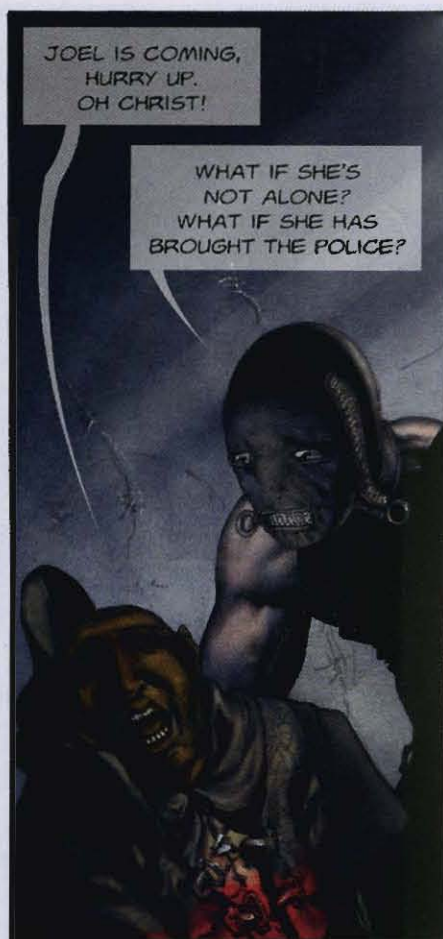
FACE THE MONSTER, TRUTH, DEFEAT IT, BEFORE...

BLAM



ABRAHAM?

I'M... STILL HERE, DORIAN.
LET'S GO ON.



JOEL IS COMING,
HURRY UP.
OH CHRIST!

WHAT IF SHE'S
NOT ALONE?
WHAT IF SHE HAS
BROUGHT THE POLICE?

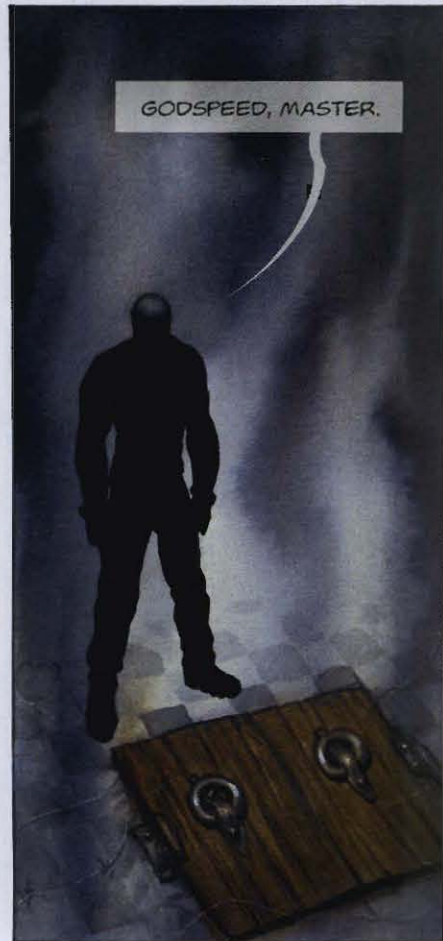


I'M GETTING SO TIRED,
DORIAN. I'D RATHER HAVE
REACHED THE END
OTHERWISE, BUT I TRUST
THAT EVERYTHING WILL GO
DOWN AS PLANNED.
JOEL IS NO FOOL. KEEP TO
MY INSTRUCTION. FOLLOW HER,
BUT DON'T DO ANYTHING.

I ONLY
HOPE...

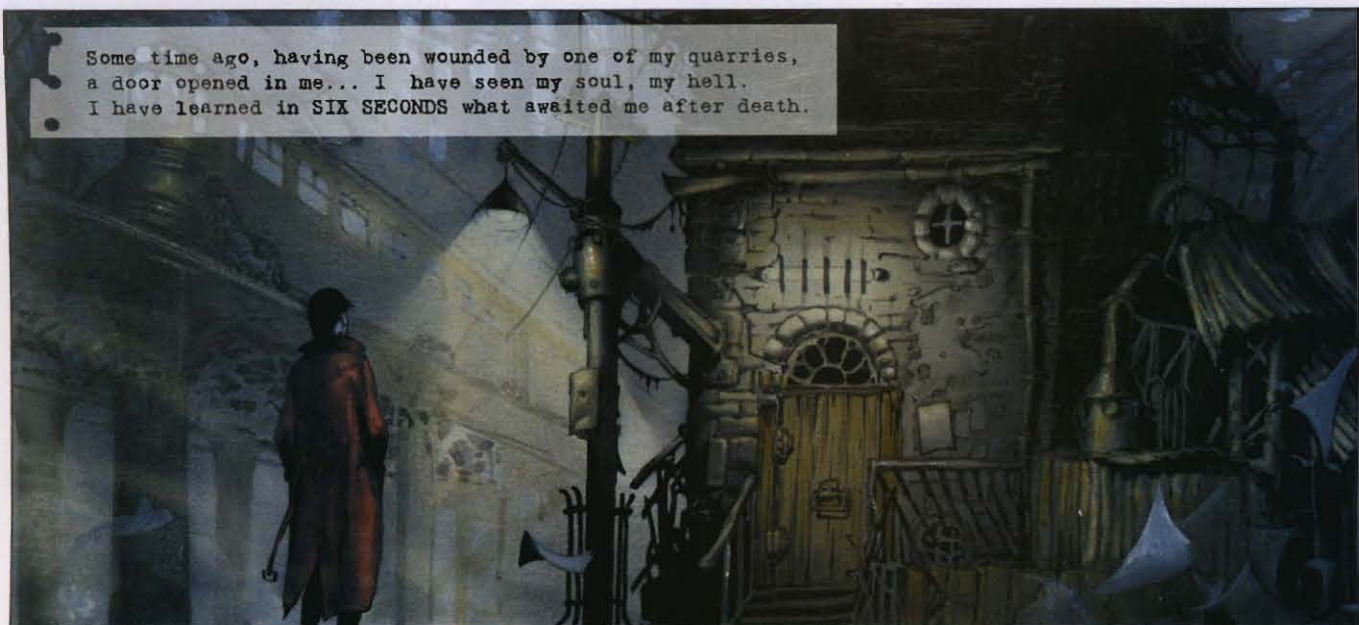


... THIS IS THE
RIGHT THING.

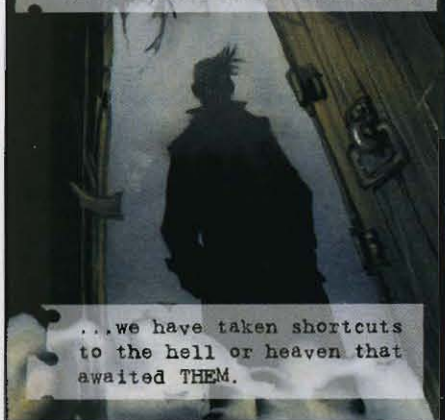


GODSPEED, MASTER.

Some time ago, having been wounded by one of my quarries,
a door opened in me... I have seen my soul, my hell.
I have learned in SIX SECONDS what awaited me after death.

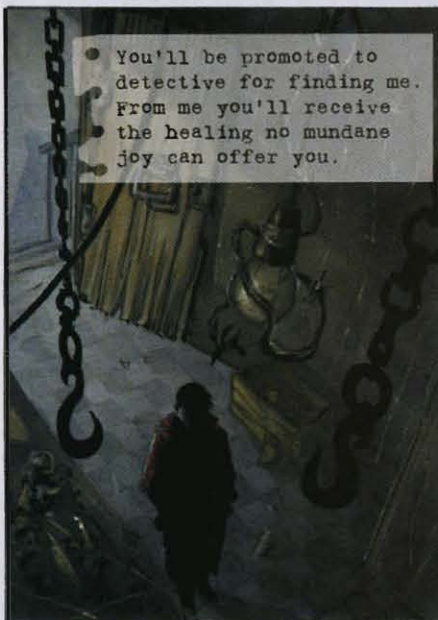


I have tried again, after
that time, I have judged and
cleansed myself and I have
STOPPED killing. Then I have
descended UNDER my SKIN
again, and have managed to
take OTHER PEOPLE with me...



...we have taken shortcuts
to the hell or heaven that
awaited THEM.

You'll be promoted to
detective for finding me.
From me you'll receive
the healing no mundane
joy can offer you.



Someone will watch over us
so that our TRIP UNDER SKIN
is not disturbed.

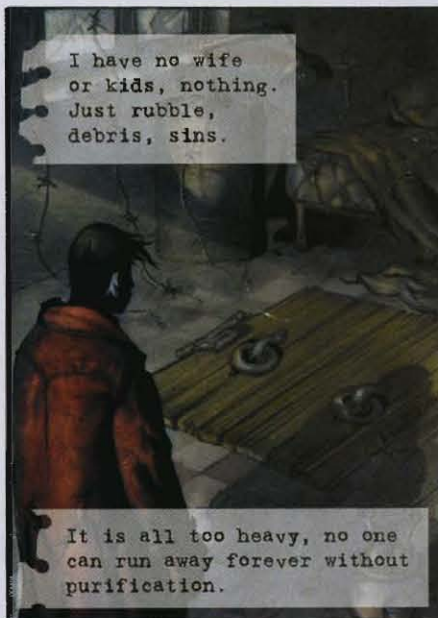


...It is not a trap although
I realize this must be hard
to accept. Have faith.



I have managed to find a
treasure, you too can do it.

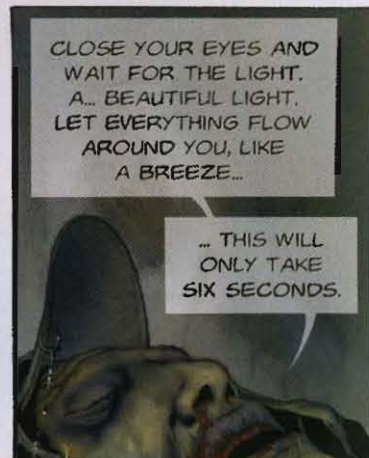
I have no wife
or kids, nothing.
Just rubble,
debris, sins.



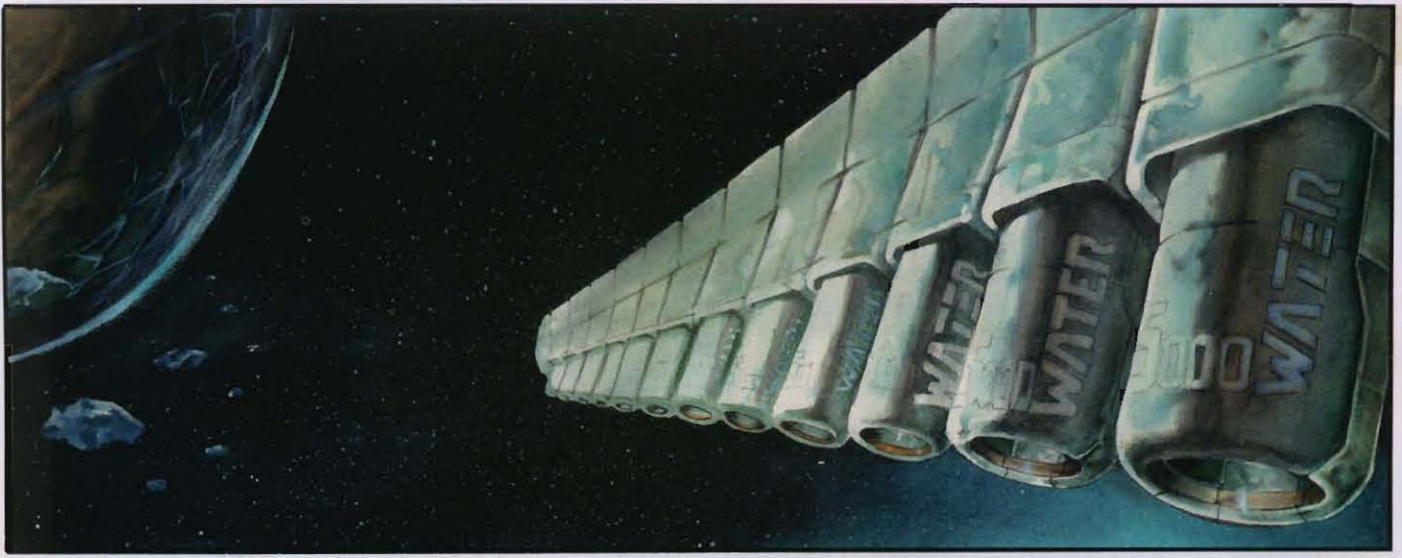
It is all too heavy, no one
can run away forever without
purification.

I want to leave my last
will and testament, Joel.
To you... I give in...





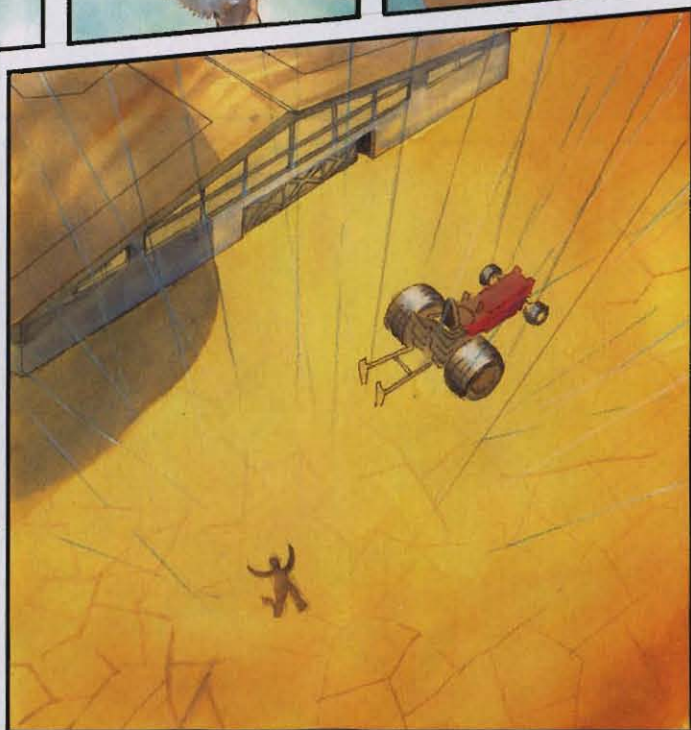
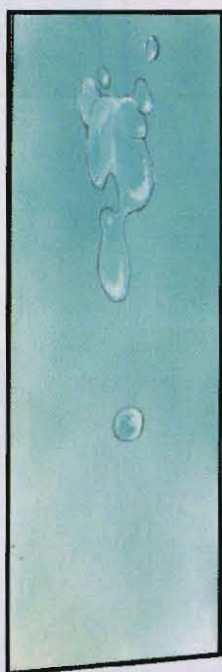
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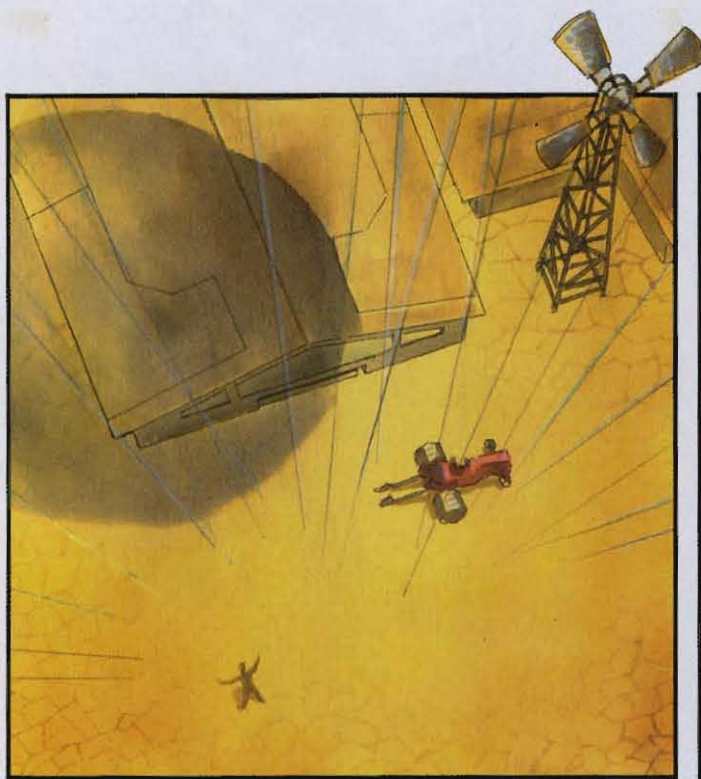


DRYNESS











... AND IT WILL GET WORSE. WE MAY HAVE TO IMPORT OPIUM FROM DYSTOPIA OR ATLANTIS.

I PERSONALLY AM IMMUNE TO HAUNTING BY MY OLD VICTIMS, AND I SUSPECT LADY CLAUDIA IS THE SAME.

IN FACT, SHE WOULD PROBABLY RELISH A VISIT FROM THEM, SO SHE CAN RELIVE HER OLD CRIMES!



WHAT A MAGNIFICENT SHIP!

DRACULA'S FLAGSHIP... THE S.S. SATANIC! THERE ARE 3,000 VAMPIRES ON BOARD... 500 VICTIMS... AND A CREW OF 400 ARCHAEOLOGISTS AND MONKS.

PROTECTED BY PHANTOM AND DEMON SHIELDS, IT CARRIES A FULL STOCKED BESTIARY AND STABLES, ONE THOUSAND GALLONS OF RAW ECTOPLASM, FOUR AUTO DA FE TANKS AND SIX GRIM REAPER FIGHTER PLANES.



IT'S ARMED WITH WEAPONS FROM EVERY EARTH ERA, INCLUDING DEMONICALLY GUIDED IMPALERS, KLESA CLUSTER BOMBS, TRACTOR BEAMS...

AND THREE DOOMSDAY MEN.

THE SATANIC HAS ITS OWN CHAPEL, BALLROOM, DUNGEONS WITH IMPALING FACILITIES, ORIFICIUM-IMPALEMENT PREPARATION ROOM, IMPALING DECK WITH 500 STAKES, THRONE ROOM AND STATEROOMS WITH IMPALING CUBICLES EN-SUITE.

DRACULA IS BIG ON IMPALING.

YES, HE ALWAYS IMPALES HIS VICTIMS SLOWLY, WITH A BLUNT SPEAR, SO AS NOT TO DAMAGE THEIR VITAL ORGANS.

BUT THE ENEMIES HE REALLY HATES HE HAS TORN APART BY WILD HORSES... OR GIVES THEM THE DEATH OF THE SPREAD EAGLE.

SO THEY SUFFER FOR MANY DAYS... DEPENDING ON WHICH WAY ROUND HE IMPALES THEM!

WHAT'S THAT?

HE CUTS A SPREAD EAGLE UPON HIS ENEMY'S BACK BY STRIKING A SWORD THROUGH THE BACK INTO HIS BELLY, DIVIDING HIS RIBS FROM THE BACKBONE DOWN TO HIS LOINS AND TEARING OUT HIS LUNGS.

ALL KNIGHTS PREPARE TO DISEMBARK!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, HEINRICH? YOU LOOK A LITTLE QUEASY.

GORGEOUS, ISN'T IT? IT'S EVERYTHING A VAMPIRE EVER DREAMT OF.

WHAT TERRIBLE CRIMES DID THEY COMMIT?


RELATIVELY MINOR ONES. HERE, THE SMALLER THE SIN, THE GREATER THE "PUNISHMENT".

ON RESURRECTION, NOT ONLY IS EVERYTHING REVERSED, IT IS ALSO UNFAIR.

IT'S LEMURIA, OTTO. IT TAKES A LITTLE GETTING USED TO.


LOOK AT THE MOUNTAINS OF PETRIFIED SOULS! DON'T THEY TAKE YOUR BREATH AWAY?

THERE'S THE SCREAMING FOREST OF MANDRAGORE, FILLED WITH SUICIDES AND SELF-DESTRUCTS.




HARPIES - INFANTICIDES -
BUILD NESTS FROM THEIR
LIMBS.


SAFE FROM
THE CENTAURS
WHO ROAM
THE FOREST...




THEY WERE
RAPISTS ON
EARTH.




AND WEREWOLVES... THEY
WERE RELIGIOUS FANAT-
ICS FULL OF HATE.



THE LAMIAS
TAMED SOME OF
THEM.



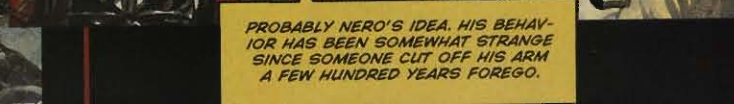
THAT'S HOW THEY
DESTROYED THE
BLACK MONASTERY.



ALTHOUGH DRACULA
HAS BLAMED THE
ARCHAEOLOGISTS.



OBSERVE THEIR
PUNISHMENT!



HE'S CRUCIFIED
THEM AND SET
THEM ALIGHT!

PROBABLY NERO'S IDEA. HIS BEHAV-
IOR HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT STRANGE
SINCE SOMEONE CUT OFF HIS ARM
A FEW HUNDRED YEARS FOREGO.

NERO IS DRACULA'S CLOSEST ALLY. WHEN THE COUNT GAVE HIM THE DARK KISS, HIS SPECIAL GIFT WAS POWER OVER FIRE.

LISTEN TO THEIR HOWLS! WHAT MUSIC THEY MAKE!

IF ONLY I COULD ACCOMPANY THEM ON MY LYRE! IF I STILL HAD MY HUMAN ARM!

IF THURIM HADN'T CUT IT OFF BECAUSE HE DIDN'T LIKE MY PLAYING.

THE HIGH PRIEST, SIRE.

WELL... THAT'S YOUR VERSION OF WHY HE DID IT, NERO.

I APOLOGIZE FOR THIS INTRUSION, COUNT.

BUT THE HIEROPHANTS HAVE ORDERED ME TO PASS ON THEIR GRAVE CONCERNS AT THE CRUCIFIXIONS OF OUR PRIESTS.

YES, THEY'RE BURNING RATHER NICELY. WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THEM?

WE KNOW! THE POPPIES ONLY GROW IN THE LETHE- THE RIVER OF FORGETFULNESS- AND WATER IS LIKE ACID TO VAMPIRES. SO WE HAVE TO RELY ON YOU ARCHAEOLOGISTS.

TRY AND BE HUMBLE ABOUT IT, HIGH PRIEST!

NO THANK YOU, OF COURSE I TOLD THE HIEROPHANTS IT WAS AN APPROPRIATE PUNISHMENT, GIVEN THE LOSS OF THE BLACK OPIUM.

HOWEVER, THEY INSISTED ON POINTING OUT...

TH-THANK YOU, NERO.

YOU SEEM AGITATED, HIGH PRIEST. WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE FREED OF YOUR CARES AND WOES?

FOREVER?

NO! I LOVE MY CARES AND WOES, SIRE!

YOU'RE SURE? BECAUSE I COULD HELP YOU?

CERTAIN!

YOU ARE REPELLED BY
THE CRUCIFIXIONS...? I
WOULD NOT WANT ANY-
ONE IN MY SERVICE
WHO WAS REPELLED BY
TORTURE.

NO! I'M REALLY
ENJOYING
WATCHING MY
PRIESTS BURN!

THEN WHY
ARE YOU
UPSET?

I... I'M UPSET WITH THE
HIEROPHANTS FOR DAR-
ING TO QUESTION YOUR
JUDGEMENT, SIRE!

NO, NO! THERE'S
REALLY NO
NEED.

THAT'S WHERE
ALL THE ASS-
HOLES ARE, YOU
KNOW.


OR RIGHT HERE!
THERE'S A TORTURE
CHAIR READY AND
WAITING FOR YOU.

ARE YOU CERTAIN? WE COULD
DISCUSS THIS IN THE ORIFICIUM
IF YOU PREFER?

ALL YOU
HAVE TO DO
IS...

OPEN WIDE...


ONLY WE'RE
NOT SURE
WHICH END
YET...



THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY! I WILL LEAVE FOR THE GREAT PYRAMID AT ONCE AND TELL THE ARCH HIEROPHANT HOW FURIOUS I AM WITH HIM! FURIOUS!



ONE MOMENT.



IT IS DISRESPECTFUL TO ENTER MY PRESENCE WITHOUT REMOVING YOUR MASK.

SO I'M GOING TO NAIL YOUR MASK TO YOUR HEAD.

YOUR KIND HAVE ALWAYS OFFENDED ME.

I HAD NO IDEA, SIRE, BUT IF I HAVE OFFENDED YOU...

ON EARTH, YOU WERE SCIENTISTS WHO DID NOT HAVE THE COURAGE OF YOUR OWN EVIL.

OH, YES... YOU OFFENDED HIM!


YOU CREATED WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND THEN WASHED YOUR HANDS OF THE CONSEQUENCES.

YOU ARE COWARDS, SCARED TO FIGHT YOURSELVES, NO WONDER YOU WERE CURSED TO REINCARNATE AS ARCHAEOLOGISTS...

TRUE EVIL IS PURE AND DARK AND DECADENT AND NOBLE! IT HOLDS ITS HEAD UP HIGH FOR IT IS A BEAUTIFUL THING TO BEHOLD!

AND YOU ARE THE SERVANTS OF PURE EVIL! YOU ARE MY SERVANTS!

NEVER FORGET! NEVER FORGET!



BURYING THE SHIT YOU USED TO CALL "PROGRESS".

DOOM!

SO WE HAVE A DEAL:
AFTER THE BATTLE, WE
HAND TORQUEMADA OVER
TO HIS VICTIMS. THEY
CAN DO WHAT THEY LIKE
WITH HIM.

YES, BUT BEFORE
YOU GO, SEAN... I
JUST WANTED TO
SAY...

YOU ARE VERY SPE-
CIAL TO ME.

YOU TOO,
REBECCA.

ALL RIGHT.
LET'S DO IT...

I'VE GIVEN HIM A
MEDICAL. HE'S FIT
AND READY TO
METAMORPHO-
SIZE.

OKAY- PUT HIM
BACK IN HIS KEN-
NEL UNTIL WE NEED
HIM.

I HOPE I SURVIVE THE ASSAULT
ON THE SATANIC SO THAT I MAY
SEE JUSTICE DONE.

AND SO I HOPE
TORQUEMADA
SURVIVES.

HE WILL. WE'LL USE CYBER-
CONTROLS TO DIRECT HIM
DURING THE BATTLE.

GOOD LUCK, MY
FRIENDS.

COME- IT IS
TIME.

LET US ASCEND!

UUUGGH!



CRAWL BACK
TO THE HIERO-
PHANTS...



AND TELL THEM
THAT IS DRACULA'S
ANSWER TO THEIR
COMPLAINTS.



IT'S WRITTEN
ACROSS
YOUR FACE.

FLY CARE-
FULLY!



I WAS INTENDING TO USE ECTOPLASM,
SIRE. THE MONKS ARE WAITING IN THE
INVOCATION CHAMBER.



NO, IT'S TOO CLOSE TO
THE COSMIC HIGH TIDE.
WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY
MIGHT SUMMON? WHAT
HAPPENED TO THE PHAN-
TOM SHIELDING?

I'M AFRAID IT'S AFFECTED BY
THE TIDE AS WELL. THEY'RE
BREAKING THROUGH.

THEN AWAKEN
THE FIRST
DOOMSDAY MAN.



YES,
SIR.

ER- I HOPE
I'M NOT
INTERRUPTING
ANYTHING?



WHO ARE YOU?

I AM... WELL...
I WAS THE
ASSISTANT HIGH
PRIEST.



AH! ANOTHER
SHIT SHOVELLER.

COME IN AND WATCH
AND LEARN, HOW,
BEFORE THERE WAS
YOUR VAUNTED SCI-
ENCE, THERE WERE
THE OLD WAYS...



WHEN MAGIC WAS
A THOUSAND TIMES
DEADLIER THAN
YOUR GREATEST
BOMBS!

SINK THE
SATANIC!

VENGEANCE!



PHANTOMS! TEN O'CLOCK HIGH!

UUUGH!

THERE'S THOUSANDS OF THEM!

THEY'RE TOO ETHEREAL TO USE IMPALERS OR CLUSTER BOMBS ON THEM. BUT IF THEY INVADE OUR BODIES, THEY'LL BLOW US ALL APART.

SO WHAT'S YOUR PLAN, GENERAL?

BOMBS POSSIBLY, BUT NOT DEATH RAYS FROM SPACE! AS A MATTER OF FACT, I WAS THE INVENTOR OF THE PHASER DEATH BEAM!

I UNDERSTAND THERE'S A PROBLEM WITH THE PHANTOM HOST? AS YOUR HIGH PRIEST AND TECHNICAL ADVISER I BELIEVE I CAN RECOMMEND THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE...

PHOTON TORPEDOES!

THE DOOMS-DAY MAN, SIRE.

OPEN HIS CAGE!

YES... I CAN SEE YOU'RE GOING TO LAST A LONG TIME...

SINK THE SATANIC!

DESTROY DRACULA!

ONE MAN CAN'T STOP THEM! PHOTON TORPEDOES- THAT'S THE ANSWER! OR NEUTRON MINES!

I HAVE INTEREST IN SUCH BAUBLES.

I'VE BEEN ASLEEP SO LONG... WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?

MY NAME IS COUNT DRACULA OR DRACONIA AND I AM YOUR EXECUTIONER.

SIRE, YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN TO ME! THEY'RE ALMOST UPON US! GIVE ME THE ORDER AND I'LL RELEASE THE PHOTON TORPEDOES!

EVER SINCE YOU WERE FOUND WANDERING IN THE KILLING FIELDS YOU HAVE BEEN KEPT IN A CATATONIC STATE...

UNTIL IT WAS TIME.

FOR YOUR DATE WITH DESTINY!

OR, IF ALL ELSE FAILS, PHASER BEAMS! JUST SAY THE WORD, COUNT, AND I'LL BEAM THEM OUT OF THE SKY!

REMOVE THE PRISONER'S FACE MASK.

WHERE AM I? WHO ARE YOU?



IT IS DONE.

PUZZLING! MOST OF THE PHANTOMS JUST... VANISHED! AND THE OTHERS ARE TURNING BACK!

THEIR WORK IS DONE.

THEY'VE GONE HOME.

HOW? WHY? WHERE DID THEY GO...?

THEIR TORTURER...

...ISN'T THERE ANYMORE!

YOU BASTARD, DRACULA! YOU CLEVER BASTARD!

BUT NOW IT'S OUR TURN... I SIGNAL THE CAVALRY TO ATTACK AND ACTIVATE THE LYCAN-THROPES!

YES, MA'AM!





I HAVE BEEN SENT TO THIS HELL WORLD
TO CLEANSE IT OF DEVIANTS! AND I
SENSE NOW IS THE TIME TO CONTINUE
MY HOLY WORK!

PRAY FORGIVENESS FOR
YOUR SINS, DEVIANTS!



PRAY!



PRAY!



SNIFF!
SNIFF!

VAMPIRES!

PREY!

KILL!

NEAR!



PREY!



WEREWOLVES
AND MOUNTED
CENTAURS
APPROACHING AT
THE GALLOP,
SIRE!

ORDER THE VAMPIRE
INFANTRY TO INTERCEPT
THE LYCANTHROPE.

REMAND THEM NOT TO USE
THEIR SILVER WEAPONS UNTIL
THE LAST MOMENT. I WANT TO
MAKE EVERY SILVER BULLET,
SPIKE AND SPEAR COUNT.

AND ORDER THE SPEC-
TRAL CAVALRY TO
ENGAGE THEM BOTH.

BATTLE
VISORS ON!

IT'S TIME TO MAKE
AN EXAMPLE OF
THESE UPSTARTS!

CHARGE!

TRAMPLE THE VAMPIRES BENEATH YOUR
HOOFES! PHANTOM
HORSES ARE NO
MATCH FOR CENTAURS!

PAYBACK TIME,
BLOODSUCKERS!

PREY!
PREY!

GRAARRGGH!

FOR LEMURIA
AND KARMIC
JUSTICE!

UNHORSE THE RIDERS!
WITHOUT THE GOADS,
THE CENTAURS WILL
RUN AMOK!

FUNERAL TANKS,
FORWARD!

FOR DRACULA,
PRAISE BE HIS
UNHOLY NAME!

STEADY, MEN! STEADY!
WAIT UNTIL YOU SMELL
THEIR DOG-BREATH ON
YOUR FACES!

PETER!
JANE! STOP
SWINGING!

YOUR FATHER
DOESN'T NEED
HELP HANGING
HIMSELF!

HA! HA!
HA!

MORE!
MORE!

PETER! JANE!
STOP BITING
NAILS!

GET AWAY
FROM YOUR
FATHER'S COF-
FIN!

HEE, HEE,
HEE!
GURGLE!

I TRUST YOU
SLEPT WELL, MY
LORD?

INDEED, MORTIS.
INDEED... I HAD THE
MOST APPALLING
AND PERVERSED
NIGHTMARES!

AND HOPEFULLY THE CELEBRATIONS FOR THE DEMISE OF DRACULA AND YOUR APPOINTMENT AS HIS SUCCESSOR!

YES... WITH BLACK SABBAT AS MY FIRST MINISTER AND THE REAL POWER BEHIND THE THRONE, I ASSUME?

SO NOW I AM FEELING FULLY REFRESHED FOR THE JOURNEY BACK TO RESURRECTION AND THE CELEBRATIONS FOR THE COSMIC HIGH TIDE!

MY LORD, ONLY YOU COMMAND THE RESPECT OF THE ENTIRE VAMPIRE NATION AND COULD POSSIBLY HEAD THE NEW GOVERNMENT...

... BUT NATURALLY, WITH YOUR ADVANCED YOUTH, YOU WOULD NOT WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN THE TIRESOME DAY TO DAY AFFAIRS OF STATE.

HMM... QUITE... OF COURSE I SHALL SEE YOU ARE WELL REWARDED FOR YOUR TREACHERY, MORTIS.

YOU ARE TOO KIND.

AND I HAVE GOOD NEWS: WHILE YOU SLUMBERED, I WAS IN CONTACT WITH THE GUILD OF PIRATES AND HAVE SORTED OUT THAT LITTLE MISUNDERSTANDING OVER THEIR SLAVE RAID.

MITRA HAS ASSURED ME OF HER GUILD'S SUPPORT DURING THE COUP. HER ENTIRE PIRATE FLEET WILL CARRY OUT AN ASSAULT ON NECROPOLIS.

EXCELLENT!

AND WHAT ABOUT THE ARCHAEOLOGISTS? THEIR SUPPORT IS ALSO VITAL.

EVEN AS WE SPEAK, BLACK SABBAT IS MEETING THEIR RULING COUNCIL.

THEY ARE MOST UNHAPPY. DRACULA BLAMES THEM FOR THE LOSS OF THE OPIUM HARVEST AND HAS CRUELLY PUNISHED THEIR HIGH PRIEST.

CAN I GET YOU ANYONE, MY LORD?

HOW ABOUT YOU?

BUT, MY LORD, I AM NOT ON THE MENU.

YOU ARE NOW!

AAAAH!

HEEELP! GET HIM OFF ME!

DON'T WORRY. HE'S COMPLETELY HARMLESS. HE ONLY WANTS TO PLAY WITH YOU.

HE'S SUFFERING FROM JUVENILE DEMENTIA.

THAT'S BETTER. I JUST NEEDED TO WET MY FANGS- TO REMIND ME OF THE GOOD OLD DAYS!

IF YOU'VE QUITE FINISHED, MY LORD...

THERE ARE MATTERS WE MUST DISCUSS IF WE ARE TO BRING ABOUT THE DESTRUCTION OF DRACULA...

... AND THE DAWNING OF A NEW ERA OF DARKNESS ON RESURRECTION!

UNDEAD FILTH!
DEMON! SICK
BLOOD DRINKER!

AYE! THAT IS MY
PATH, LAMIA! AND I
AM CURSED TO
FOLLOW IT!

TO DESTROY ALL
WHO ARE ENEMIES
OF MY KIND!

THE FATES
HAVE DECREED
IT...

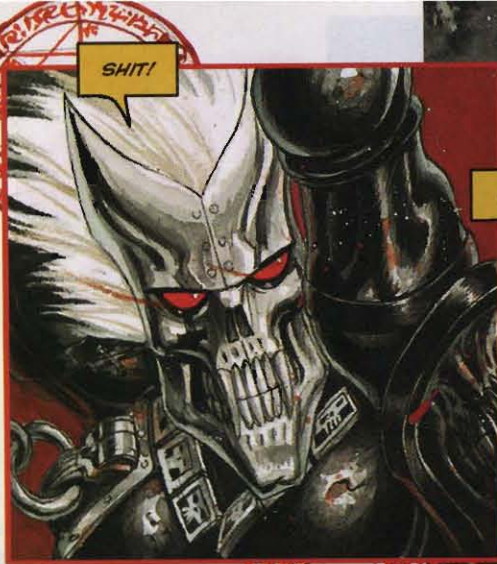
... AND I CANNOT
CHALLENGE
THEM!

IT IS MY DUTY AS
A VAMPIRE
KNIGHT...

... TO HONOR THE
POWERS OF
DARKNESS!

VAMPIRE...!
DEVILANT...!
BAD...!

MUST CLEANSE
AND PURIFY!



SHIT!

AAAAAH!



BLAM!



BACK! GET BACK!
OR YOU'LL GET A
TASTE OF THIS,
WEREWOLF!



SEAN! ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT?

AYE! THAT
VAMPIRE KNIGHT
WAS GOOD...

BUT HE'LL BE NO
MATCH FOR
TORQUEMADA!



OH, NO! IT'S
HEINRICH!



HIM? THE ONE WHO
LET YOU FALL INTO
THE HANDS OF THE
GESTAPO?



YES! I HAVE TO
STOP TORQUE-
MADA!



WHOP?

THE GERMAN SOLDIER
I TOLD YOU ABOUT.
THE ONE I HAD AN
AFFAIR WITH ON
EARTH.



NO!

HE'S NOSFERATU,
REBECCA! HE'S
PURE EVIL!



NO... HE
CAN'T BE
ALL EVIL...!

HE'S IN HELL
BECAUSE HE'S A
MONSTER! LIKE
ALL VAMPIRES!

GIVE HIM TO THE
WEREWOLF!
GIVE HIM TO
TORQUEMADA!



THE END...

**FEATURED
IN THIS ISSUE:**

**REQUIEM #3:
DRACULA**
BY MILLS & LEDROIT

GERMINATION
BY ROYO

MUDWOGS #1
BY ARTHUR SUYDAM

PLUS MUCH MORE!

Art from "Requiem #3"
by Mills & Ledroit

