

SWORDS OF SORROW™ VAMPIRELLA® & JENNIFER BLOOD™

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NANCY A. COLLINS
DAVE ACOSTA



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SWORDS OF SORROW

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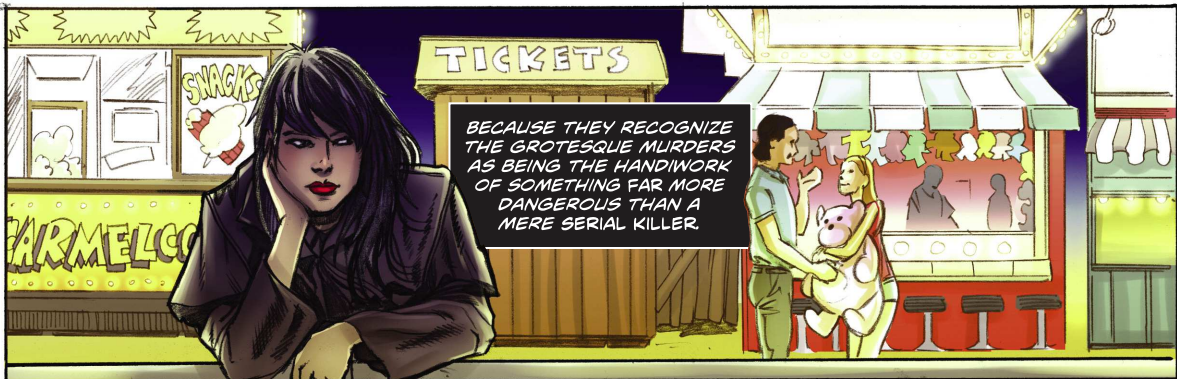
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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA:

WHEN THE KILLINGS BEGAN,
IT TOOK THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES
A WHILE TO FIGURE OUT THEY
WERE ALL SOMEHOW CONNECTED.

NEWS REPORTS OF THE 'PACIFICA SLASHER'
SENT UP CERTAIN RED FLAGS WITHIN THE
KABAL- A COVERT ORGANIZATION
DEDICATED TO KEEPING TABS ON OCCULT
ACTIVITY THAT MIGHT ALERT
HUMANITY TO THE FACT THAT
THE THINGS THAT GO
BUMP IN THE NIGHT
ARE VERY
REAL.

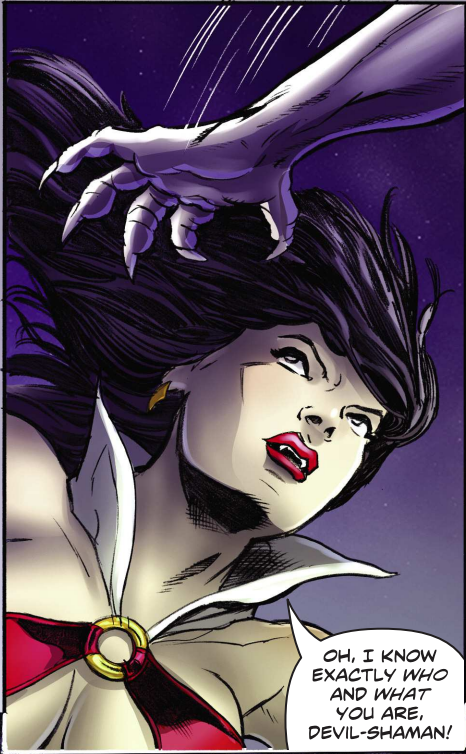
THAT IS WHY THEY HAVE
SENT ONE OF THEIR
BEST FIELD AGENTS
TO INVESTIGATE
THE MATTER...







**FOOLISH WOMAN!
YOU DON'T KNOW
WHO YOU'RE
TRIFLING WITH!**



**OH, I KNOW
EXACTLY WHO
AND WHAT
YOU ARE,
DEVIL-SHAMAN!**



**I KNOW YOUR
NAME IS TAHQUITZ,
AND THAT YOU GO
ON A CANNIBAL
RAMPAGE EVERY
TWO HUNDRED
YEARS!**



**SINCE YOU COST ME
TONIGHT'S PREY...**

**THEN YOU SHOULD
HAVE NO PROBLEM
TAKING HER PLACE---
WHOOAAA!**

**NICE TRY,
EDWARD SCISSORHANDS--
BUT I'M NOT SOME CLUELESS
SURFER CHICK YOU CAN
MESMERIZE INTO STROLLING
OFF FOR A BITE!**



**AWWW--
DON'T BE LIKE THAT!
I WAS JUST STARTING
TO HAVE FUN!**

WHAT THE--?!? THAT LOOKS LIKE WHAT I SAW IN HYDE PARK, JUST BEFORE THAT T.REX TRIED TO USE ME FOR A TOOTH PICK!*

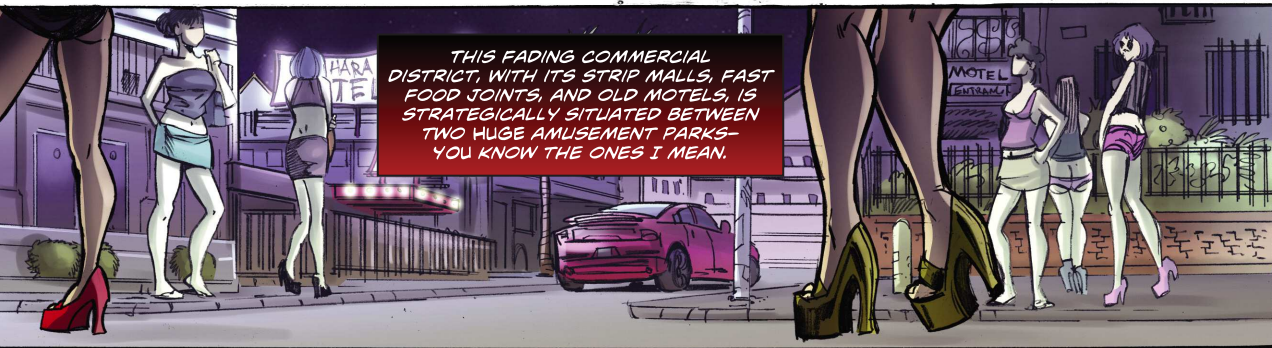
AWWWW-DON'T BE LIKE THAT! I WAS JUST STARTING TO HAVE FUN!

I DON'T KNOW WHERE THIS THING LEADS, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO LET THAT CREEP GET AWAY FROM ME!

I JUST HOPE THERE ARE NO DINOSAURS WAITING FOR ME ON THE OTHER SIDE!

*SWORDS OF SORROW BOOK 1 - ED.





THIS FADING COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, WITH ITS STRIP MALLS, FAST FOOD JOINTS, AND OLD MOTELS, IS STRATEGICALLY SITUATED BETWEEN TWO HUGE AMUSEMENT PARKS—YOU KNOW THE ONES I MEAN.

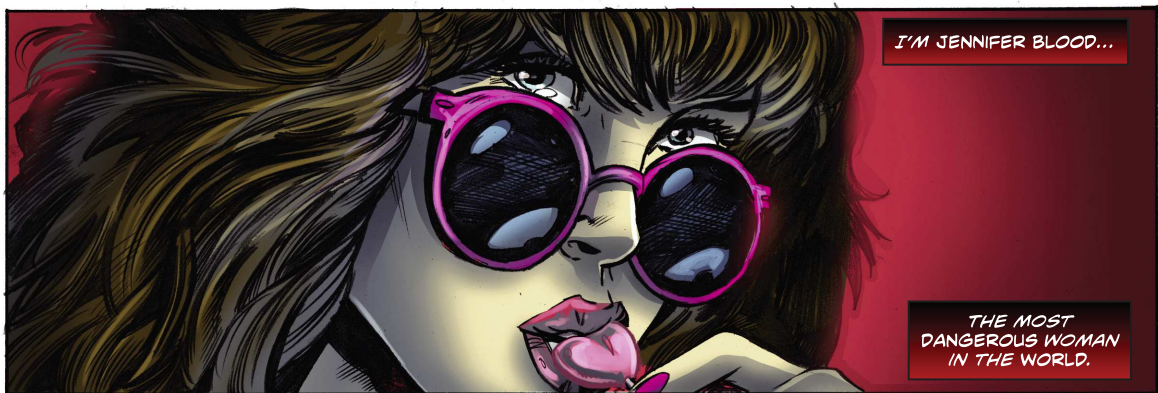


DURING THE DAY EVERYTHING SEEMS FAMILY FRIENDLY ENOUGH—BUT ONCE THE SUN SETS, THIS ONE-MILE STRETCH OF BOULEVARD BECOMES A MECCA FOR PROSTITUTES AND THEIR JOHNS.



RECENTLY THIS AREA HAS BECOME THE HUNTING GROUND OF A SERIAL KILLER THEY'RE CALLING 'THE ANAHEIM RIPPER.'

SO FAR HE'S CLAIMED FOUR VICTIMS. I'M HERE TO MAKE SURE THE SCUMBAG DOESN'T RACK UP HIS TALLY EVEN HIGHER.



I'M JENNIFER BLOOD...

THE MOST DANGEROUS WOMAN IN THE WORLD.



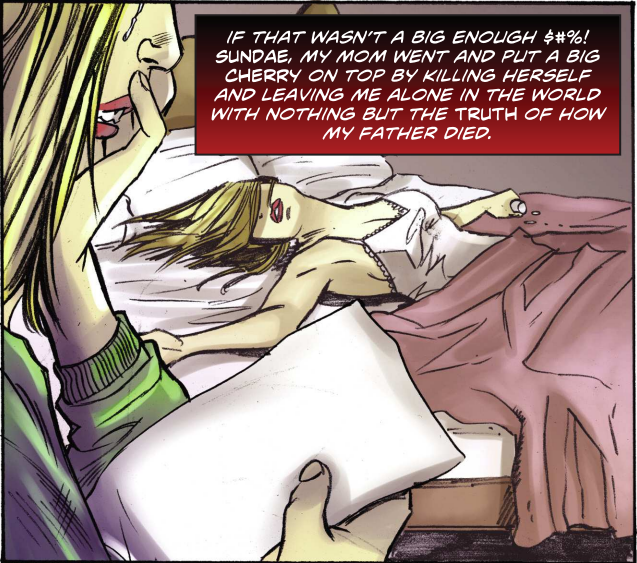
OF COURSE, I WASN'T BORN THAT WAY. HELL, I WASN'T EVEN CALLED JENNIFER-

THE NAME ON MY BIRTH CERTIFICATE IS 'JESSICA', DAUGHTER OF SAMUEL AND JENNIFER BLUTE.


AS IT TURNED OUT, DEAR OLD DAD WAS THE HEAD OF THE BLUTE CRIME FAMILY...



BUT HIS BROTHERS DIDN'T LIKE HOW HE WAS RUNNING THINGS—SO THEY DECIDED TO GET RID OF HIM BY MAKING IT LOOK LIKE A RIVAL GANG WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS DEATH.



IF THAT WASN'T A BIG ENOUGH \$\$\$%! SUNDAY, MY MOM WENT AND PUT A BIG CHERRY ON TOP BY KILLING HERSELF AND LEAVING ME ALONE IN THE WORLD WITH NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH OF HOW MY FATHER DIED.



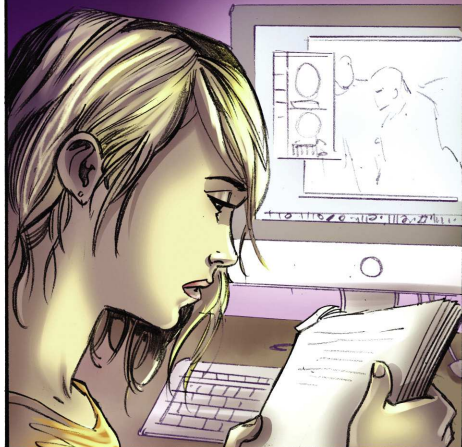
AFTER READING MY MOTHER'S SUICIDE NOTE, I KNEW WHAT I HAD TO DO. I FAKED MY OWN DEATH AND TOOK ON A NEW IDENTITY.



I SPENT YEARS TURNING MYSELF INTO A LIVING WEAPON, DREAMING OF THE DAY WHEN I COULD FINALLY AVENGE MY PARENTS.

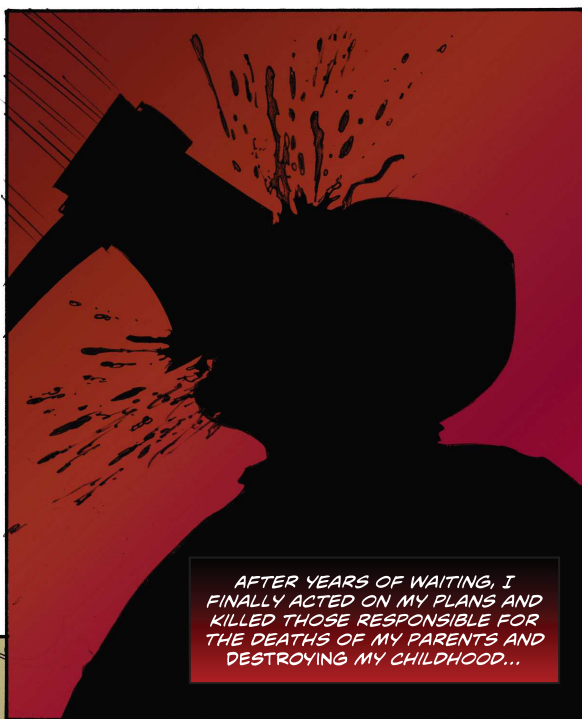
TRUE TO THE FAMILY NAME, I WANTED BLOOD FOR BLOOD.

REVENGE WAS ALL I LIVED FOR; I LEARNED EVERYTHING I COULD ABOUT MY UNCLAS, UNCOVERING ALL THEIR DIRTY SECRETS...



UNTIL THE DAY, WHILE IN THE COLLEGE LIBRARY RESEARCHING THE FAMILY HEROIN BUSINESS, I MET ANDREW FELLOWS—AND MY VENDETTA TOOK A BACK SEAT TO GETTING MARRIED AND STARTING MY OWN FAMILY.

I HAD TWO KIDS—A GIRL AND A BOY—AND WITH THEM CAME A NEW LIFE, ONE UNCONNECTED TO THE VIOLENCE AND DARKNESS OF MY PAST... OR SO I KEPT TELLING MYSELF.



AFTER YEARS OF WAITING, I FINALLY ACTED ON MY PLANS AND KILLED THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF MY PARENTS AND DESTROYING MY CHILDHOOD...

JENN

EVEN GOING SO FAR AS TO SIGN MY NAME IN THE BLOOD OF MY ENEMIES...





ONCE THE LAST OF THEM WAS DEAD, I THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE IT. THAT I COULD QUIT AND GO BACK TO BEING JEN FELLOWS: SUBURBAN HOUSEWIFE.

BUT IT TURNS OUT I LIKED KILLING—AND THE SCUZZIER THE SLEAZEBAG, THE BETTER. AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, I WAS GOOD AT IT.



SO I BECAME JEN FELLOWS: SOCCER MOM BY DAY, AND JENNIFER BLOOD: VIGILANTE BY NIGHT...UNTIL MY HUSBAND FOUND MY JOURNAL. HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO DIVORCE ME AND MAKE SURE I NEVER GOT TO SEE MY KIDS AGAIN.

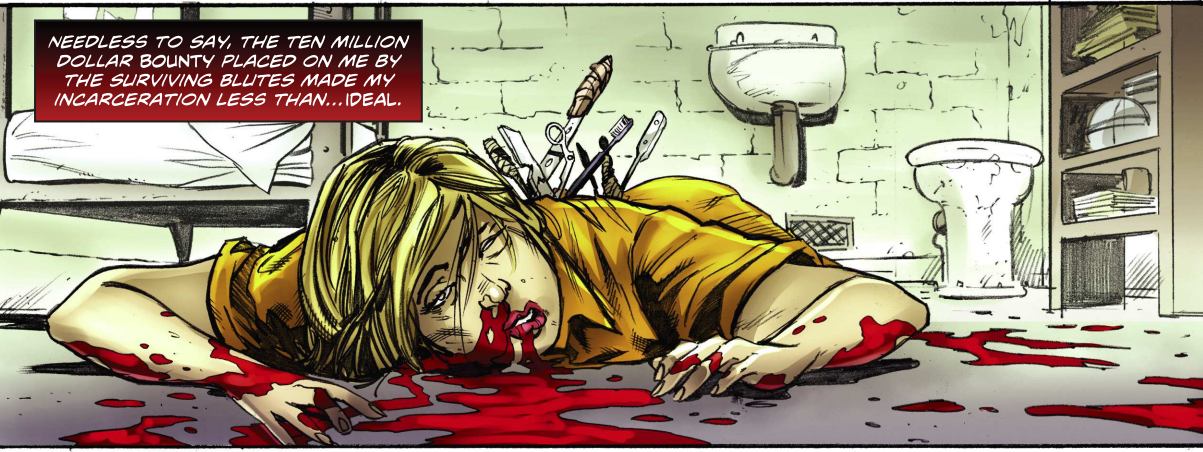
HE REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT.



I'M NOT PROUD OF WHAT HAPPENED NEXT, BUT ANDREW LEFT ME NO CHOICE.



THINGS REALLY WENT TO \$#%! AFTER THAT, AND THE NEXT THING I KNEW I WAS CONVICTED ON ONE HUNDRED COUNTS OF MURDER AND SHIPPED OFF TO PRISON.



NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE TEN MILLION DOLLAR BOUNTY PLACED ON ME BY THE SURVIVING BLUTES MADE MY INCARCERATION LESS THAN...IDEAL.



THE RESULT BEING, ONCE I WAS OFFERED A MEANS OF ESCAPE BY THIS GROUP OF RICH, WELL-CONNECTED PSYCHOS WHO CALL THEMSELVES THE HUNTSMEN...

I NATURALLY TOOK IT-



ALTHOUGH THAT SITUATION QUICKLY PROVED LESS THAN IDEAL AS WELL.



ALL I WANTED WAS MY KIDS BACK. AND I ALMOST GOT THEM, TOO-



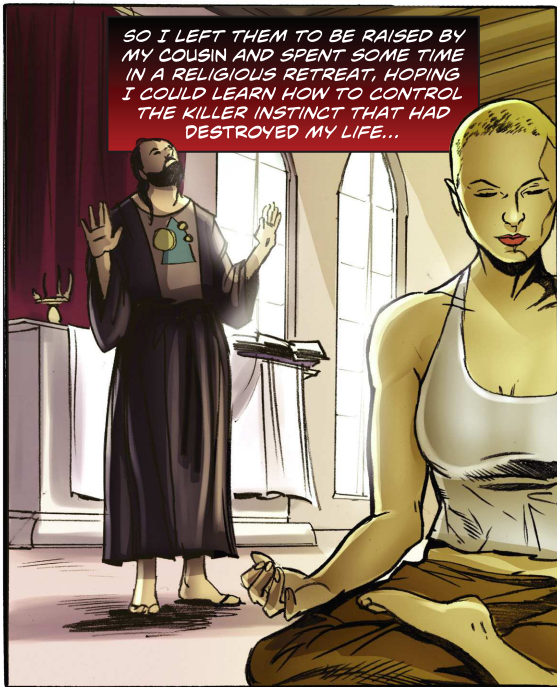
UNTIL A DISTANT COUSIN OF MINE STOLE THEM FROM ME.



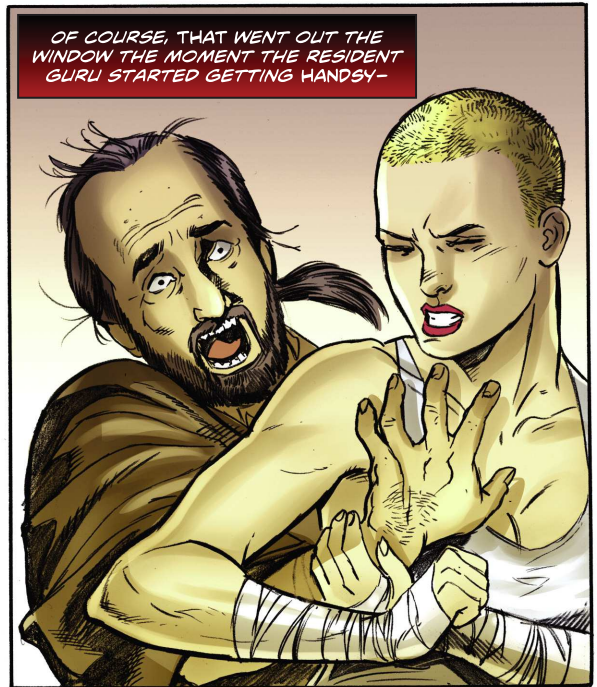
I DECIDED TURNABOUT WAS FAIR PLAY, SO I TOOK HIS FAMILY AWAY FROM HIM.



BUT AFTER ALL I HAD GONE THROUGH TO BE RELUNITED WITH MY CHILDREN- I DISCOVERED THEY FEARED AND HATED ME FOR WHAT I HAD DONE TO THEIR FATHER- AND TO THEIR LIVES. THEY NEVER WANT TO SEE ME AGAIN.



SO I LEFT THEM TO BE RAISED BY MY COUSIN AND SPENT SOME TIME IN A RELIGIOUS RETREAT, HOPING I COULD LEARN HOW TO CONTROL THE KILLER INSTINCT THAT HAD DESTROYED MY LIFE...



OF COURSE, THAT WENT OUT THE WINDOW THE MOMENT THE RESIDENT GURU STARTED GETTING HANDSY-

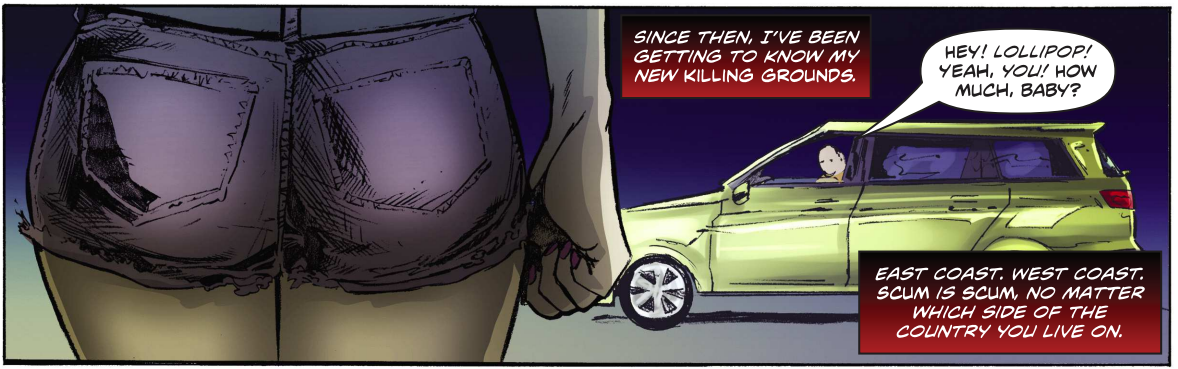


AND THEN THERE WAS THE MATTER OF THE DOMINATRIX WHO DECIDED TO POSE AS 'JENNIFER BLOOD'. SO SHE COULD SET UP HER STOOGES AS A LOVER AS THE NEW BOSS OF L.A.



SINCE SHE WANTED TO BE ME SO BADLY, I ARRANGED FOR HER TO DIE IN MY STEAD. I HAVE SINCE TAKEN OVER HER IDENTITY AND MOVED INTO HER PLACE IN THE HOLLYWOOD HILLS.

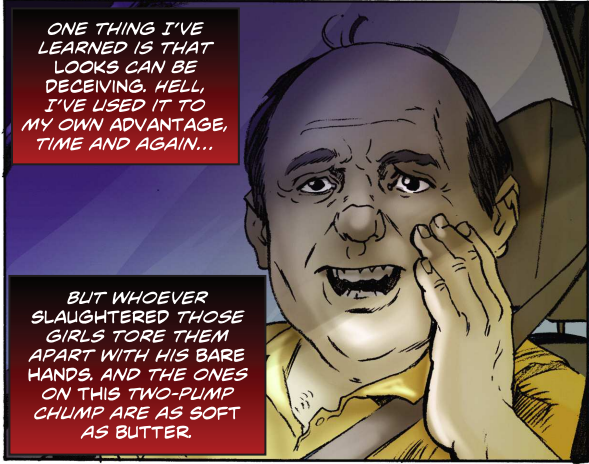
PAYBACK'S A BITCH, AND SO AM I.



SINCE THEN, I'VE BEEN GETTING TO KNOW MY NEW KILLING GROUNDS.

HEY! LOLLIPOP! YEAH, YOU! HOW MUCH, BABY?

EAST COAST, WEST COAST, SCUM IS SCUM, NO MATTER WHICH SIDE OF THE COUNTRY YOU LIVE ON.

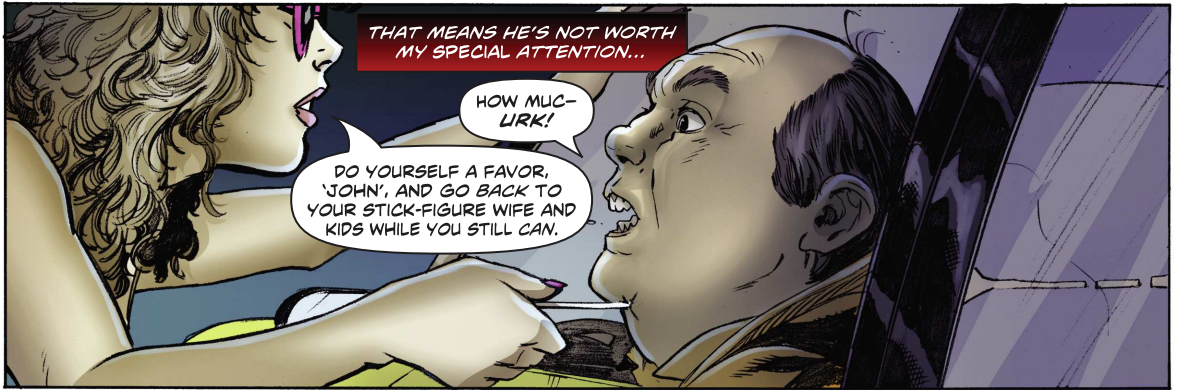


ONE THING I'VE LEARNED IS THAT LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING. HELL, I'VE USED IT TO MY OWN ADVANTAGE, TIME AND AGAIN...

BUT WHOEVER SLAUGHTERED THOSE GIRLS TORE THEM APART WITH HIS BARE HANDS, AND THE ONES ON THIS TWO-PUMP CHUMP ARE AS SOFT AS BUTTER.



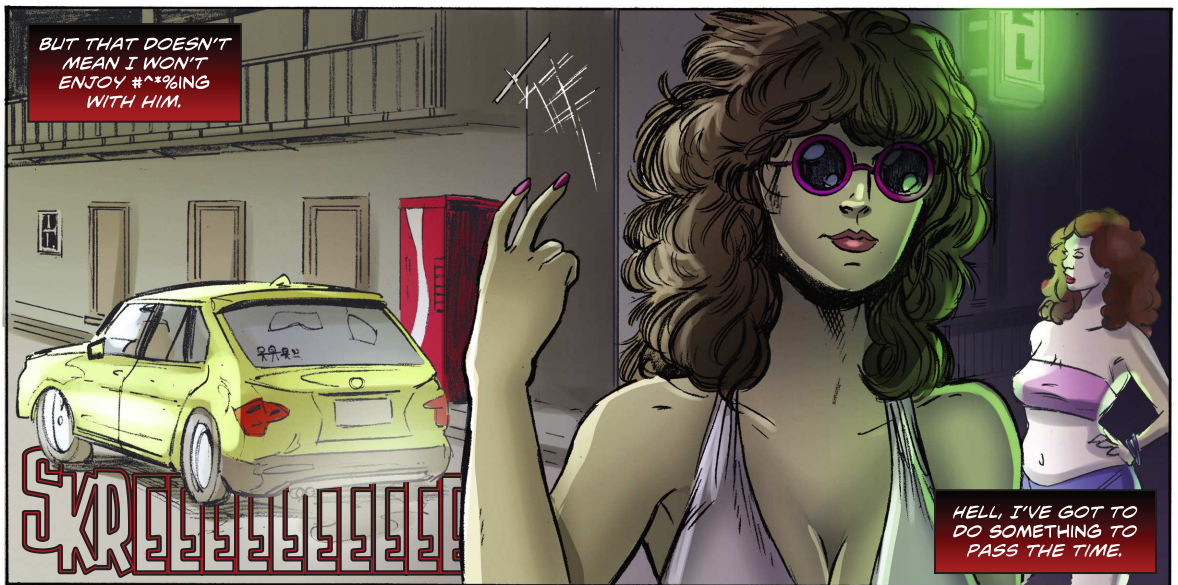
WHAT'S THE MATTER? DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME?



THAT MEANS HE'S NOT WORTH MY SPECIAL ATTENTION...

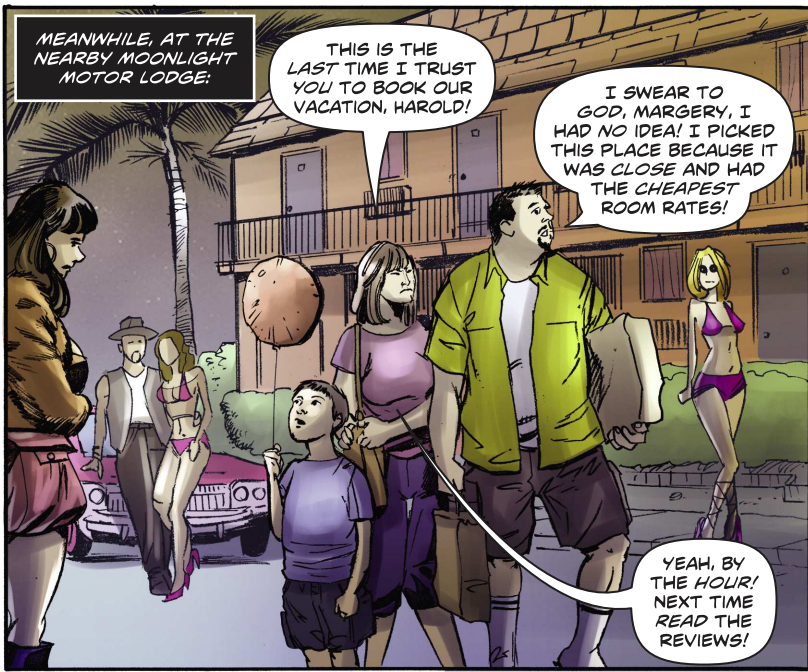
HOW MUC-LURK!

DO YOURSELF A FAVOR, 'JOHN', AND GO BACK TO YOUR STICK-FIGURE WIFE AND KIDS WHILE YOU STILL CAN.



BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I WON'T ENJOY #**%ING WITH HIM.

HELL, I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING TO PASS THE TIME.

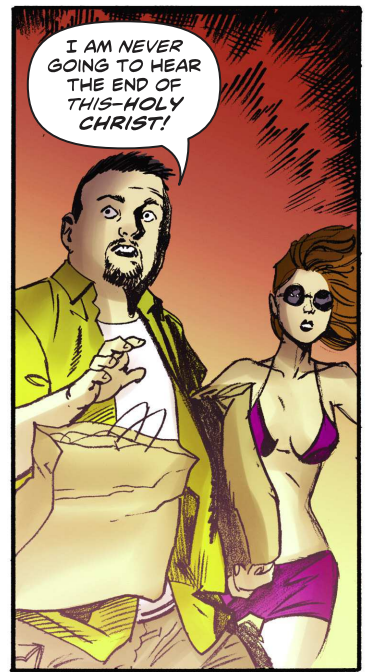


MEANWHILE, AT THE NEARBY MOONLIGHT MOTOR LODGE:

THIS IS THE LAST TIME I TRUST YOU TO BOOK OUR VACATION, HAROLD!

I SWEAR TO GOD, MARGERY, I HAD NO IDEA! I PICKED THIS PLACE BECAUSE IT WAS CLOSE AND HAD THE CHEAPEST ROOM RATES!

YEAH, BY THE HOUR! NEXT TIME READ THE REVIEWS!



I AM NEVER GOING TO HEAR THE END OF THIS-HOLY CHRIST!



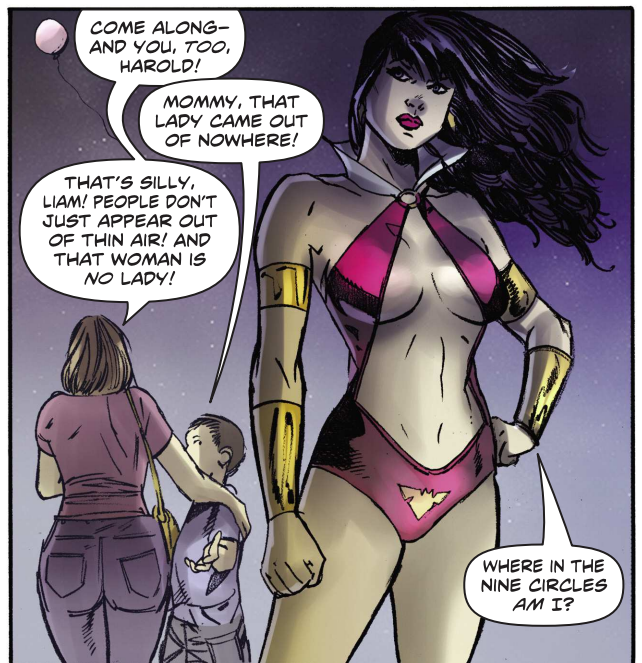
WELL, AT LEAST THERE'S NO T.REX ON THIS SIDE!



WOW!

HAROLD!

OWW!

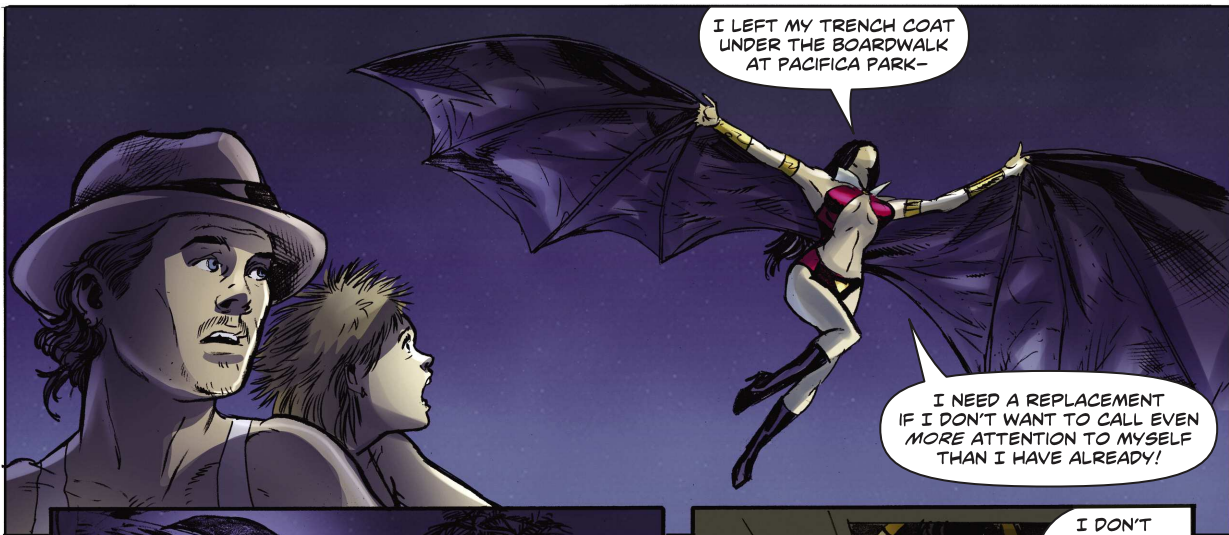


COME ALONG- AND YOU, TOO, HAROLD!

MOMMY, THAT LADY CAME OUT OF NOWHERE!

THAT'S SILLY, LIAM! PEOPLE DON'T JUST APPEAR OUT OF THIN AIR! AND THAT WOMAN IS NO LADY!

WHERE IN THE NINE CIRCLES AM I?



I LEFT MY TRENCH COAT UNDER THE BOARDWALK AT PACIFICA PARK-

I NEED A REPLACEMENT IF I DON'T WANT TO CALL EVEN MORE ATTENTION TO MYSELF THAN I HAVE ALREADY!



PERFECT!



I DON'T USUALLY CONDONE BREAKING AND ENTERING, BUT THIS IS A SPECIAL SITUATION...

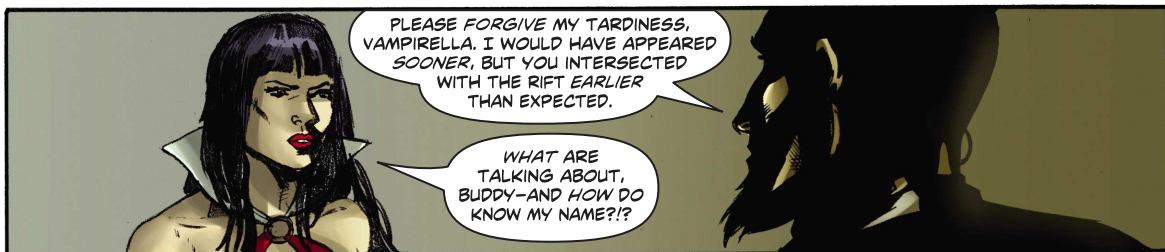


HMMM-KIND OF RETRO FOR ME-



I THINK IT WILL SUIT YOU QUITE WELL.

HLUH--?!!?



PLEASE FORGIVE MY TARDINESS, VAMPIRELLA. I WOULD HAVE APPEARED SOONER, BUT YOU INTERSECTED WITH THE RIFT EARLIER THAN EXPECTED.

WHAT ARE TALKING ABOUT, BUDDY—AND HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?!



THERE IS NO REASON TO BE AFRAID; I MEAN YOU NO HARM.

YEAH, WELL, NO OFFENSE, BUT I'VE HEARD THAT ONE BEFORE!

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF: I AM THE COURIER. I SERVE THE TRAVELLER.

"IT IS SHE WHO TOLD ME YOUR NAME, AND WHERE TO FIND YOU..."



SHE ALSO TOLD ME TO GIVE YOU THIS. YOU WILL BE NEEDING IT SOON.



WHY WOULD I NEED A SWORD?



WHY DON'T YOU CALL THE MADAME DIRECTOR AND FIND OUT?

HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE KABAL?

I KNOW OF NOTHING BUT WHAT THE TRAVELLER TELLS ME. AND THERE IS NOTHING SHE DOES NOT KNOW.



WELL, IF ANYONE CAN SORT OUT MYSTIC BULL#\$%!, IT'S MADAME EVILY. I'D PUT HER CRYSTAL BALL UP AGAINST THIS SO-CALLED 'TRAVELLER' OF YOURS ANY TIME...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN 'NO LONGER IN SERVICE'?!?

I'M GETTING THE SAME THING WITH COLERIDGE AND TRISTAN'S NUMBERS AS WELL! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!?

THAT IS BECAUSE THIS IS NOT YOUR WORLD, VAMPIRELLA, BUT ONE PARALLEL TO IT, ONE WHERE MAGIC, AND CREATURES SUCH AS VAMPIRES AND WITCHES DO NOT EXIST!



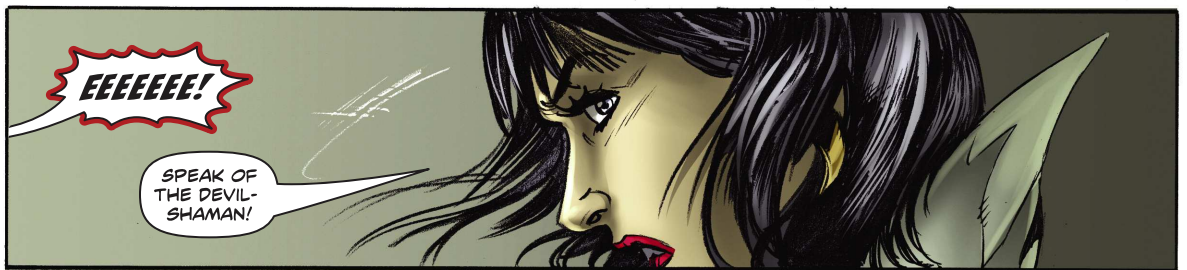
"THERE IS A GREAT DISTURBANCE AMONGST THE VARIOUS REALITIES THAT FILL THIS IN A MULTITUDE OF AND MERGING INTO ONE. UNIVERSE, RESULTING WORLDS COLLIDING"

"YOU, YOURSELF, HAVE ALREADY EXPERIENCED ONE SUCH BRIEF INTERSECTION OF PRESENT AND PAST."



"IS THIS DEVIL-SHAMAN I'VE BEEN HUNTING- IS HE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS?"

"NO, HE HAS SIMPLY BEEN EXPLOITING THE RIFTS BY CROSSING OVER BETWEEN YOUR WORLD AND THIS ONE IN ORDER TO INCREASE HIS HUNTING GROUND--"



EEEEEE!

SPEAK OF THE DEVIL-SHAMAN!



I MIGHT AS WELL PACK IT IN FOR THE NIGHT. I'VE BEEN OUT HERE FOR HOURS, AND STILL NO SIGN OF THE RIPPER.



GOOD, MY GEAR'S STILL WHERE I LEFT IT. I DON'T LIKE WORKING WITHOUT A NET, BUT I COULDN'T HIDE ANYTHING LARGER THAN A SWISS ARMY KNIFE IN THAT OUTFIT-



MUCH LESS THIS LITTLE BEAUTY.

I REALLY LIKE THIS BLADE. IT'S ALMOST AS IF THE HANDLE WAS DESIGNED FOR MY HAND, AND NO ONE ELSE'S.



AND FOR ALL I KNOW, IT WAS.



AIEEEEEEE!

SOUNDS LIKE I'LL GET A CHANCE TO TRY OUT MY NEW MACHETE AFTER ALL!

THIS CAN'T BE THE ANAHEIM RIPPER-! THIS GUY DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE CAN BREAK WIND, MUCH LESS TEAR A WOMAN APART--



#^*%!
WHAT WAS IT I SAID EARLIER?
THAT'S RIGHT: 'APPEARANCES CAN BE DECEIVING.'



SO, YOU LIKE TO PLAY ROUGH, HUH?



THEN YOU CAME TO THE RIGHT PLACE!



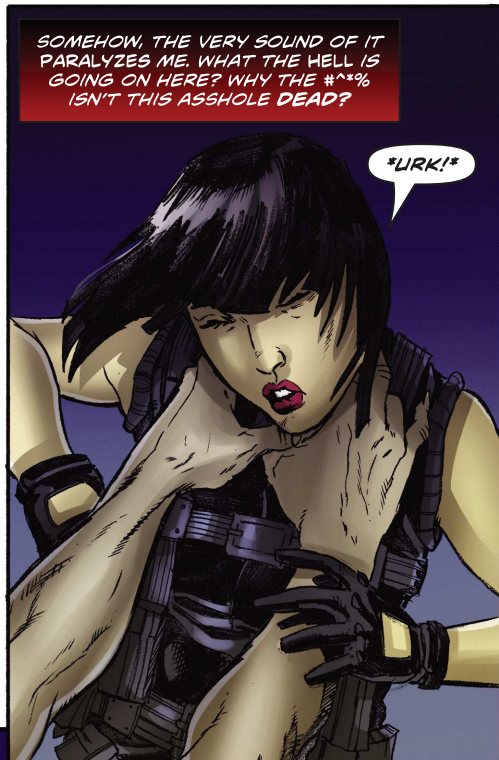


I'VE HEARD HUNDREDS OF SCREAMS OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, BUT NOTHING LIKE WHAT COMES OUT THE RIPPER.



IT'S LIKE A PEN FULL OF SWINE BEING BUTCHERED WHILE SOMEONE BOILS A LIVE CAT.

SOMEHOW, THE VERY SOUND OF IT PARALYZES ME. WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE? WHY THE #^*% ISN'T THIS ASSHOLE DEAD?



"URK!"

AND HOW IS HE STILL ABLE TO KILL ME?





LET HER GO, TAHQUITZ!

THWACK



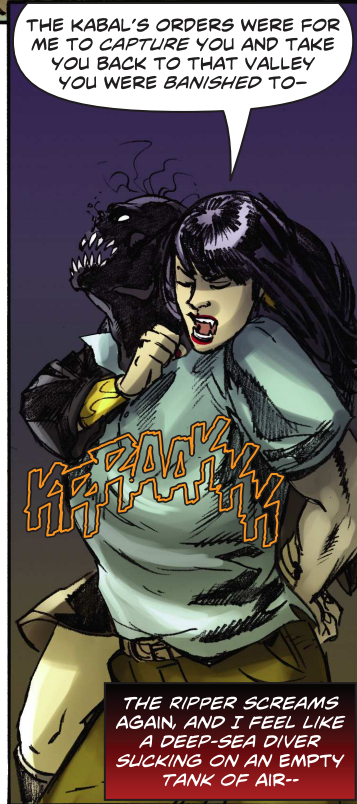
DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD ELUDE ME BY HOPPING FROM ONE WORLD TO THE NEXT, SHAMAN?

WHAT. THE. #A*%.



YOU SHOULD HAVE REALIZED I WOULDN'T GIVE UP THAT EASY!

WHERE DID SHE COME FROM?



THE KABAL'S ORDERS WERE FOR ME TO CAPTURE YOU AND TAKE YOU BACK TO THAT VALLEY YOU WERE BANISHED TO-

THE RIPPER SCREAMS AGAIN, AND I FEEL LIKE A DEEP-SEA DIVER SUCKING ON AN EMPTY TANK OF AIR-



BUT THAT WAS BEFORE YOU PISSED ME OFF!

UNTIL THE SCREAMING STOPS.



TOO BAD THAT 'KILLING SHOUT' OF YOURS ONLY WORKS ON HUMANS.



NOW TO TRY AND FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET BACK HOM-EEP!



WHO THE HELL ARE YOU, LADY? YOU JUST TORE OUT THE ANAHEIM RIPPER'S THROAT WITH YOUR TEETH!

ANAHEIM RIPPER? IS THAT YOU CALLED HIM HERE? WHERE I'M FROM, THEY CALLED HIM THE PACIFICA SLASHER...



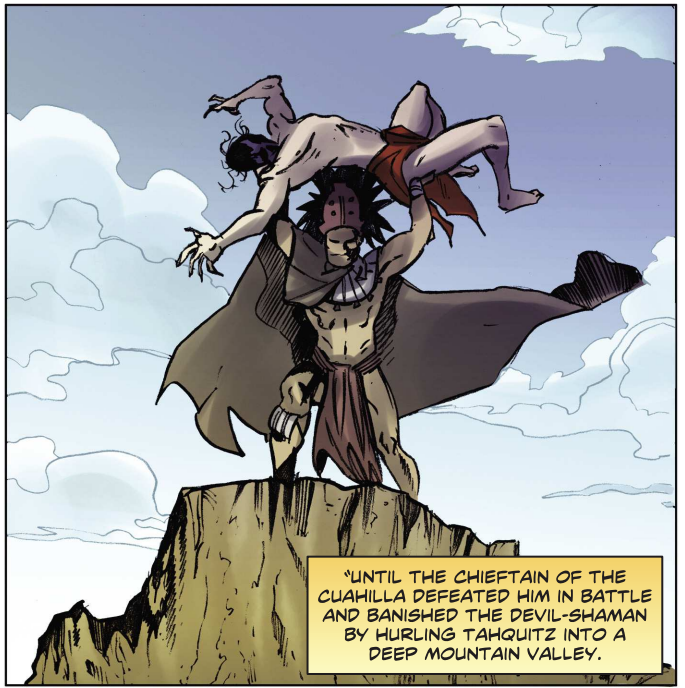
"BUT HIS REAL NAME WAS TAHQUITZ. A THOUSAND YEARS AGO, HE WAS MEDICINE MAN TO THE CUAHILLA TRIBE THAT ORIGINALLY LIVED IN THIS PART OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.



"BY ALL ACCOUNTS, HE BEGAN AS A WISE AND GOOD SHAMAN-BUT HE CRAVED POWER.

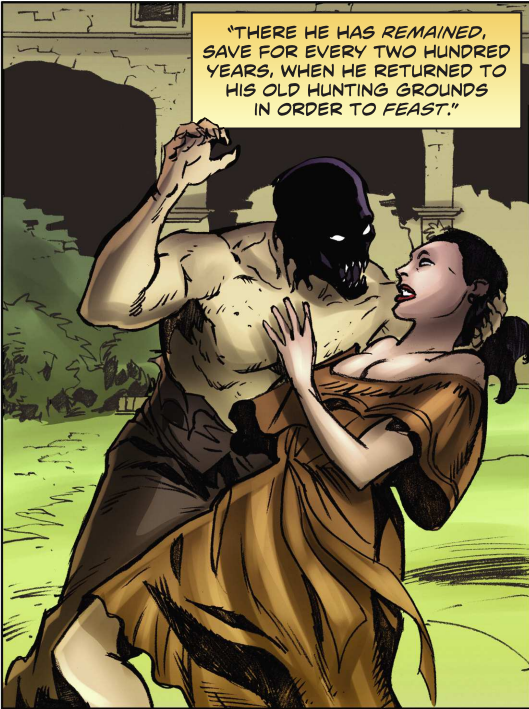
"IN THE END, HE BECAME POSSESSED BY AN EVIL SPIRIT, SIMILAR TO THE WENDIGO THAT PLAGUE THE ALGONQUIN PEOPLE OF THE GREAT LAKES..."

"TAHQITZ WAS OVERCOME WITH A DARK HUNGER FOR HUMAN FLESH AND BECAME A CANNIBAL, PREYING ON HIS OWN PEOPLE..."



"UNTIL THE CHIEFTAIN OF THE CUAHILLA DEFEATED HIM IN BATTLE AND BANISHED THE DEVIL-SHAMAN BY HURLING TAHQUITZ INTO A DEEP MOUNTAIN VALLEY."

"THERE HE HAS REMAINED, SAVE FOR EVERY TWO HUNDRED YEARS, WHEN HE RETURNED TO HIS OLD HUNTING GROUNDS IN ORDER TO FEAST."



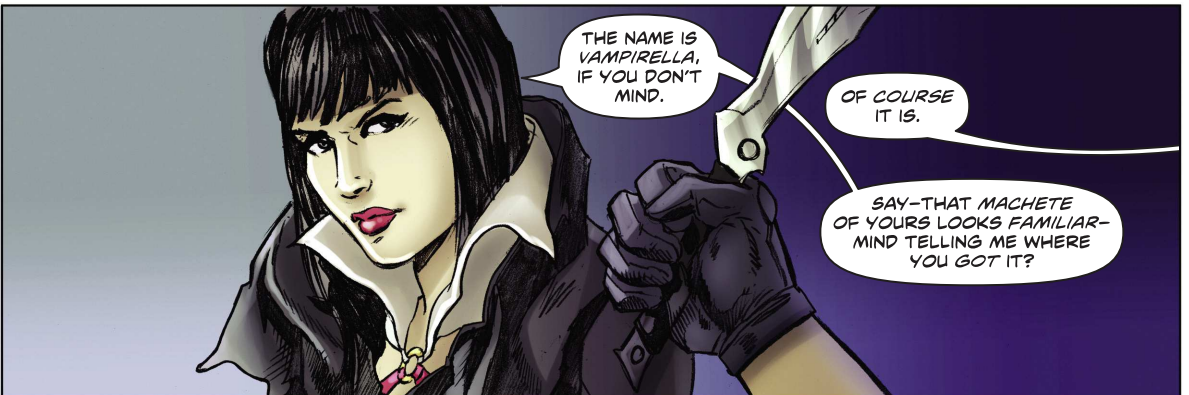
WOW, LADY, YOU'RE EVEN CRAZIER THAN YOUR TASTE IN CLOTHES!

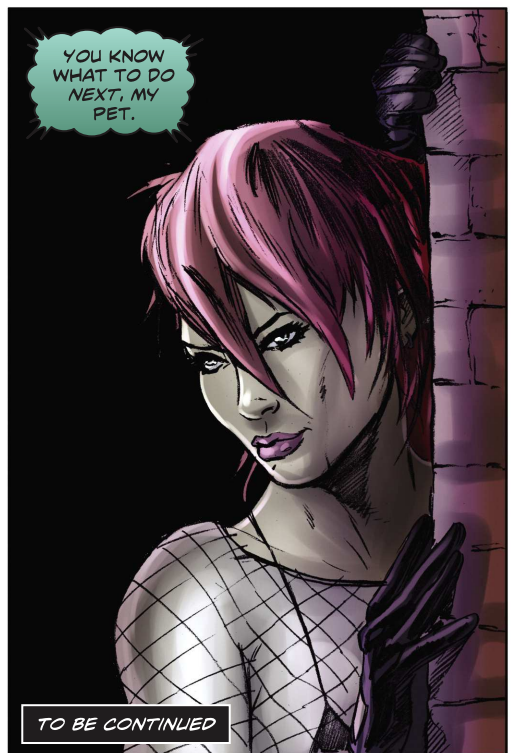


THE NAME IS VAMPIRELLA, IF YOU DON'T MIND.

OF COURSE IT IS.

SAY-THAT MACHETE OF YOURS LOOKS FAMILIAR-MIND TELLING ME WHERE YOU GOT IT?





SWORDS OF SORROW

event checklist

may

- Chaos Prequel one-shot
- Swords of Sorrow 1 of 6
- Vampirella & Jennifer Blood 1 of 4
- Masquerade & Kato one-shot

june

- Dejah Thoris & Irene Adler 1 of 3
- Swords of Sorrow 2 of 6
- Vampirella & Jennifer Blood 2 of 4
- Black Sparrow & Lady Zorro one-shot

july

- Dejah Thoris & Irene Adler 2 of 3
- Swords of Sorrow 3 of 6
- Vampirella & Jennifer Blood 3 of 4
- Red Sonja & Jungle Girl 1 of 3

august

- Dejah Thoris & Irene Adler 3 of 3
- Swords of Sorrow 4 of 6
- Vampirella & Jennifer Blood 4 of 4
- Pantha & Jane Porter one-shot
- Red Sonja & Jungle Girl 2 of 3

september

- Miss Fury & Lady Rawhide one-shot
- Swords of Sorrow 5 of 6
- Red Sonja & Jungle Girl 3 of 3

october

- Swords of Sorrow 6 of 6