

DYNAMITE
5

VAMPIRELLA[®]



DYNAMITE ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

VAMPIRELLA®

HER ORIGINS ARE SHROUDED IN MYSTERY.

SOME SAY SHE'S A POWERFUL ENTITY FROM ANOTHER REALM; OTHERS TELL TALES OF A CHILD BORN OF A DEMONIC MOTHER IN HELL'S FIRE AND DISPATCHED TO CLEANSE THE WORLD OF EVIL.

BUT ALL THESE STORIES SHARE A COMMON REFRAIN: VAMPIRELLA HAS COME TO BATTLE THE FORCES OF DARKNESS – FROM VAMPIRIC LEGIONS, TO SUPERNATURAL EVILS THAT BEGGAR DESCRIPTION.

AND NOW, SHE FACES A TERRIBLE THREAT THAT EVEN THE BLOOD-DRENCHED POWERS OF THE NIGHT HAVE COME TO FEAR...

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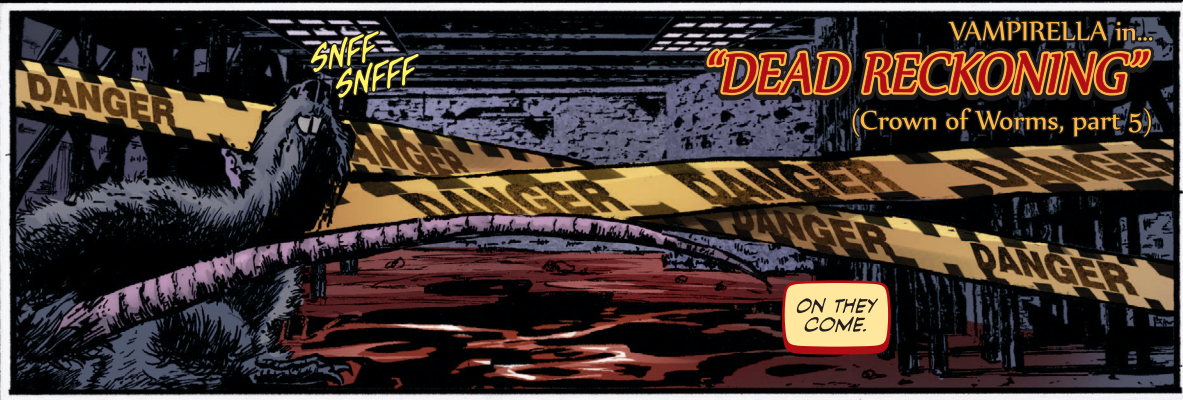
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SNFF
SNFFF

VAMPIRELLA in...
"DEAD RECKONING"

(Crown of Worms, part 5)

ON THEY
COME.

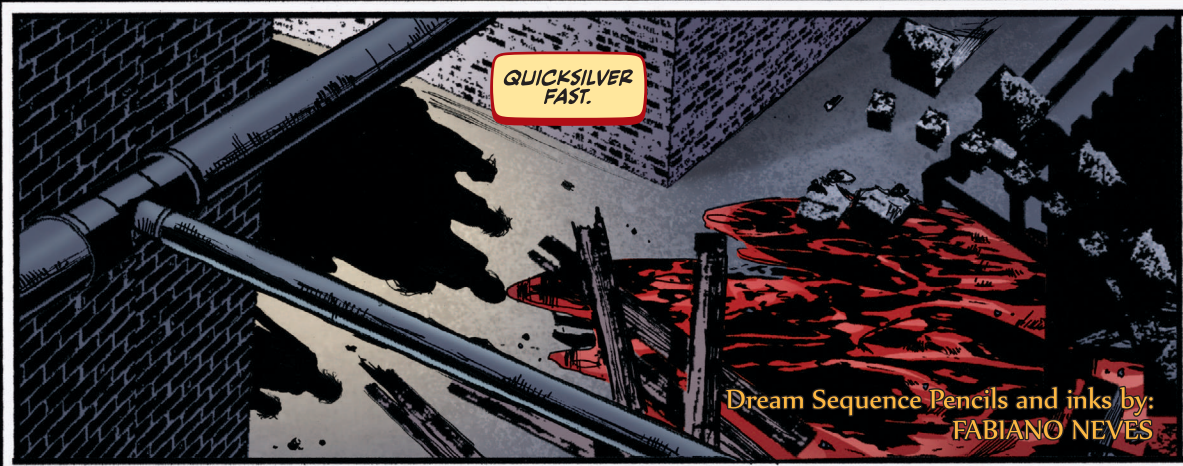


SILENTLY.

SKEEEK

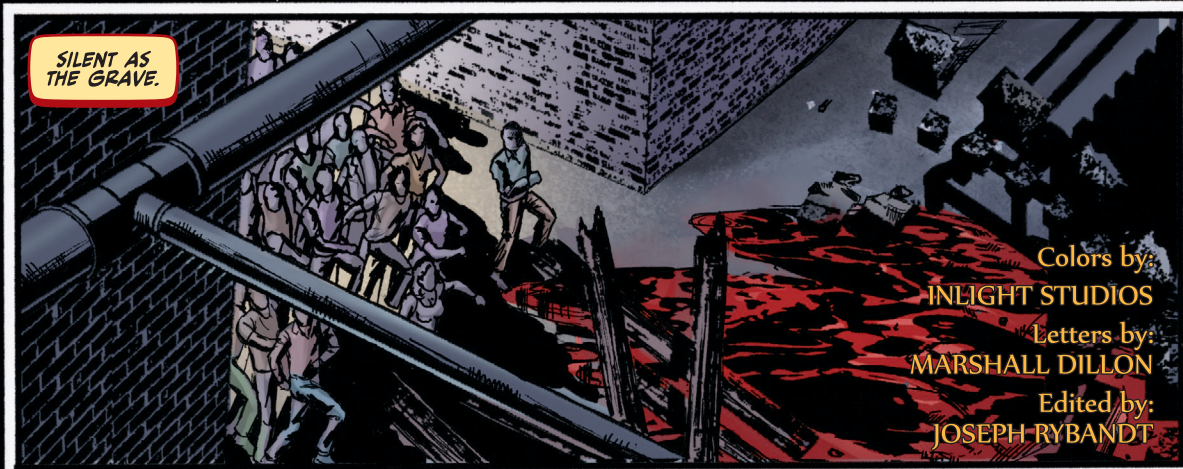
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QUICKSILVER
FAST.

Dream Sequence Pencils and inks by:
FABIANO NEVES



SILENT AS
THE GRAVE.

Colors by:
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SEATTLE UNDERGROUND


CONSUMED WITH RAGE, BURNING WITH HUNGER. FOR BLOOD, FOR THE PLEASURE OF THEIR MISTRESS.

QUICKLY, MES ENFANTS
OUR "MASTER" AWAITS US.

LE FANU, ONCE A FAVORITE OF DRACULA, NOW, EAGER TO SEE HER ONCE-BELOVED LEADER BOW BEFORE HER.

SHE HAD BEEN A POWERFUL VAMPIRE, A QUEEN IN DRACULA'S BLOOD-DRENCHED COURT.

NOW, SOMETHING...OTHER. SOMETHING PERVERSE AND TWISTED, WRENCHED OUT OF SHAPE BY CONTACT WITH AN ANCIENT, TERRIBLE ARTIFACT.



AS DOES
THE THIEF,
THE SALOPE,
VAMPIRELLA.

I WOULD
SEE HER *SUFFER*,
CHILDREN.

I WOULD
SEE HER
WEEP.

SOME PEOPLE
JUST CARRY
A GRUDGE.

BULLETS,
VAMPIRELLA?
YOU REALLY THINK
THAT'LL STOP
ME?

HELL'S
DEPTHS, THAT
BURNS.

BLESSED
SILVER IN
THE BULLETS,
VLAD.

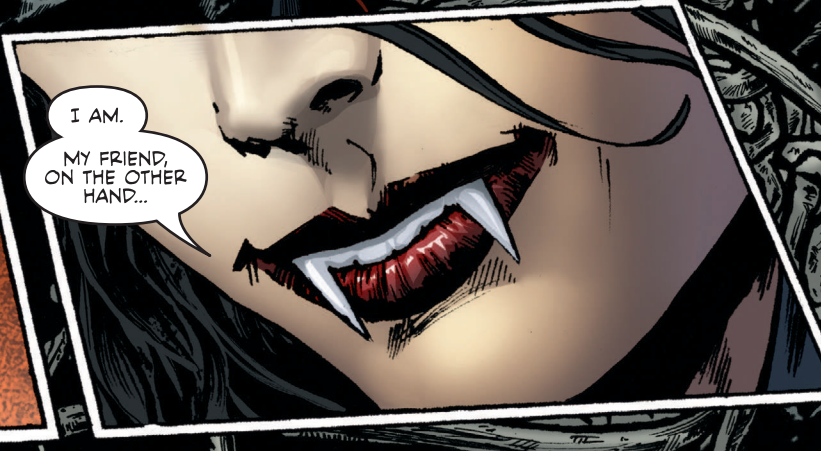
A GIFT
FROM THE
VATICAN.

AN
ANNOYANCE,
NOTHING
MORE.

YOU *KNOW*
ME. YOU KNOW
WHAT I *AM*. IT'LL
TAKE MORE THAN
BULLETS TO
KILL ME.



AND YOU'RE ALL OUT OF BULLETS NOW.



I AM.
MY FRIEND,
ON THE OTHER
HAND...

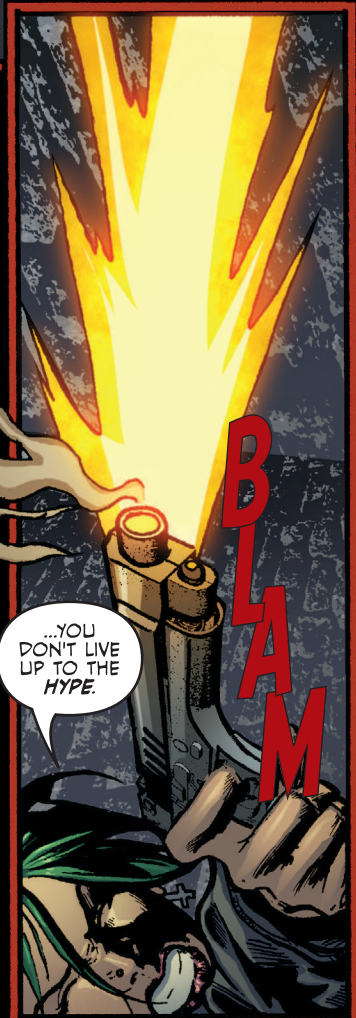


HEY!
VLAD!

?



BIG FAN
OF THE WHOLE
VAMPIRE THING.
BUT I'VE GOTTA
TELL YOU, IN
PERSON...



...YOU
DON'T LIVE
UP TO THE
HYPE.

BLAM



NNGH!

IDIOTS.
YOU'RE
MAKING A
MISTAKE.



WE ARE
ALL RUNNING
OUT OF
TIME--



TO RID THIS WORLD OF YOU, YOU LITTER BASTARD, I WILL MAKE THE TIME.



THIS SO-CALLED APOCALYPSE WE FACE?

YOU BROUGHT IT DOWN ON US. NOW YOU WANT ME TO HELP YOU CLEAN UP YOUR MESS?

WHUDD



DAMN YOU, LISTEN TO ME.

LE FANU IS COMING!

SHE AND HER BASTARD CHILDREN SERVE A POWER SO GREAT IT WILL DEVOUR ALL LIFE!

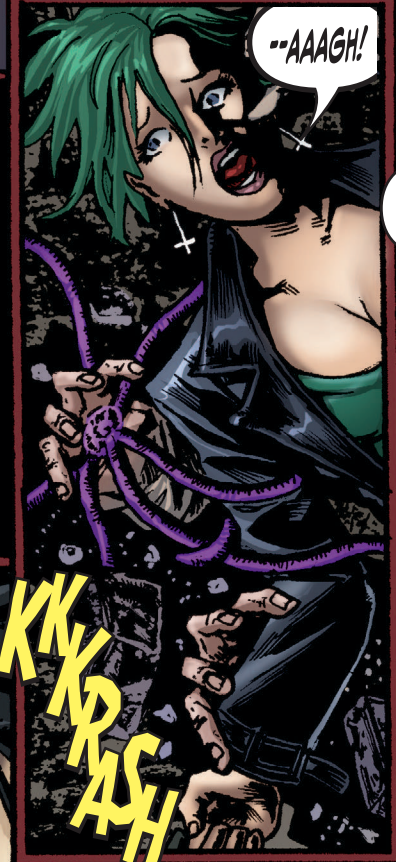
ALL OF IT! EVERYWHERE!



WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE, SOFIA?

YOU JUST SHOT DRACULA.

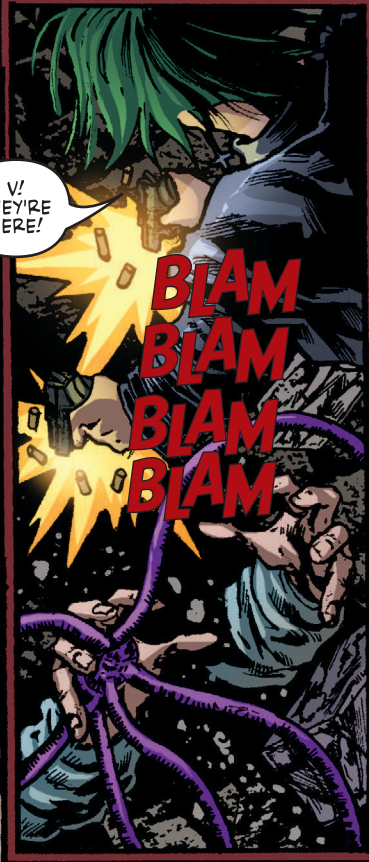
CRAZY. YOU JUST SHOT DRACULA IN THE FACE--



--AAAGH!

V! THEY'RE HERE!

KK
KR
ASH



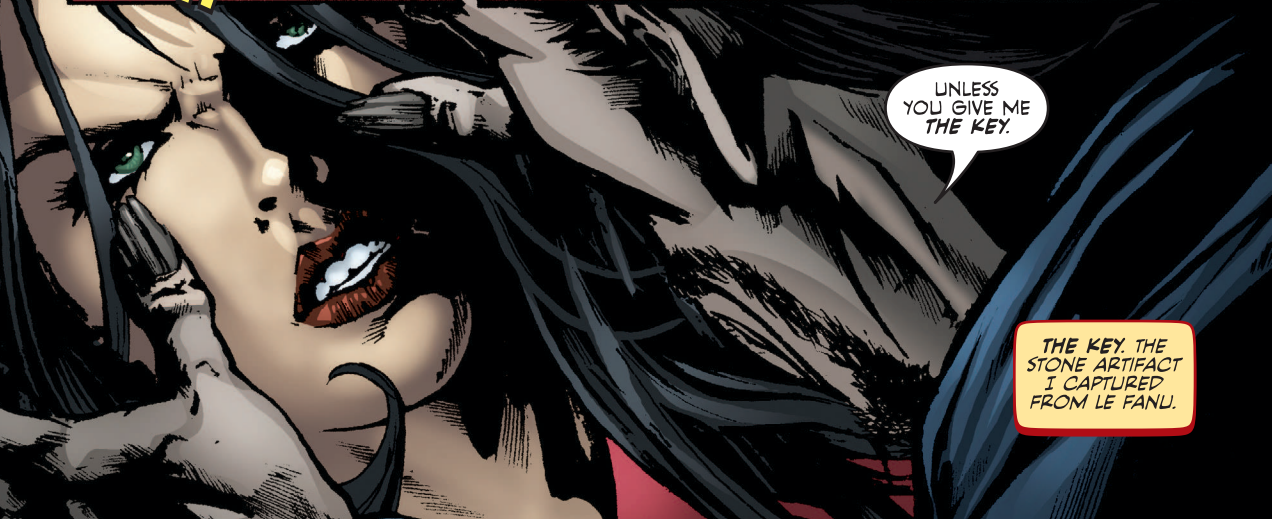
BIAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM



SOFIA!

THERE'S NO MORE TIME, VAMPIRELLA.

LE FANU IS HERE, AND SHE WILL KILL YOUR PET HUMAN, TEAR OUT YOUR HEART, AND CAST ALL OF US INTO THE ABYSS.



UNLESS YOU GIVE ME THE KEY.

THE KEY. THE STONE ARTIFACT I CAPTURED FROM LE FANU.

IT'S A TRICK.
HAS TO BE. I
SHOULDN'T
TRUST HIM.

YOU BOTH
WANT IT. THAT
MEANS **ONE**
THING TO
ME:

NEITHER
OF YOU
SHOULD
HAVE IT.

YOU DON'T
EVEN KNOW
WHAT THE KEY
REALLY IS.
I DO.

EXCEPT.

--COME
TO DADDY,
LITTLE
MORSEL.

NNF!

IN HIS TIME, VLAD DRACULA
HAS BEEN ROYALTY.
A CUNNING GENERAL.
A RUTHLESS WARLORD.

I AM A
PRINCE OF
WALLACHIA. MY
WORD **MEANS**
SOMETHING.

I SWEAR
YOU THIS OATH,
VAMPIRELLA: GIVE
ME THE KEY, AND
I WILL USE IT TO
SAVE US ALL.

I GIVE YOU
MY WORD, NO
HARM WILL COME
TO YOU OR YOUR
COMPANION BY
MY HAND.

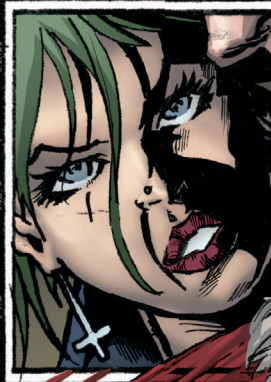
PLEASE.

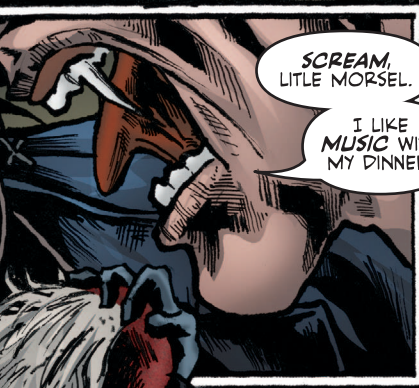
AND I'D SWEAR THIS
IS THE FIRST TIME
HE'S EVER BEEN
GENUINELY AFRAID.

...AGREED.



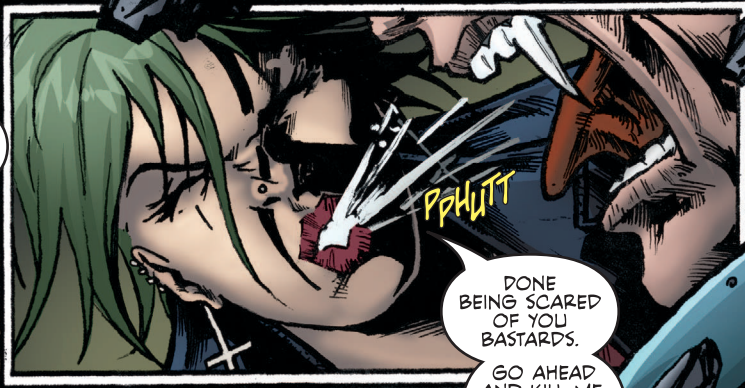
HUNGRY.





SCREAM,
LITTLE MORSEL.

I LIKE
MUSIC WITH
MY DINNER.



PPHHTT

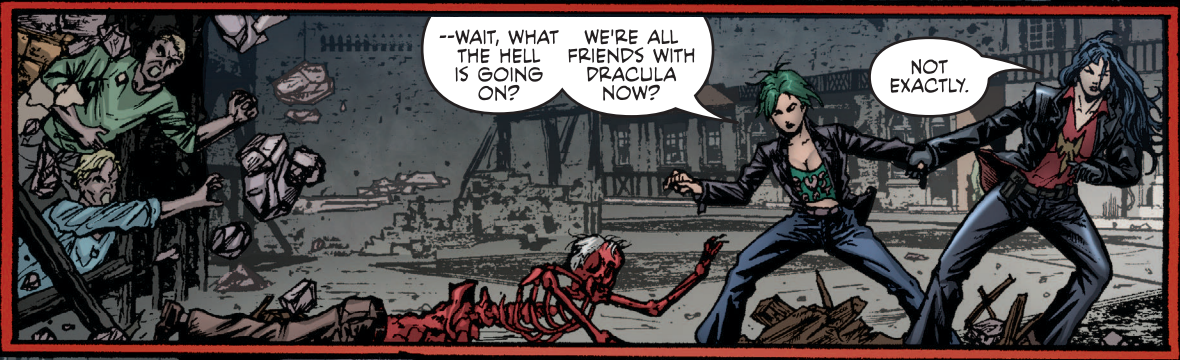
DONE
BEING SCARED
OF YOU
BASTARDS.

GO AHEAD
AND KILL ME.
BUT I'M
DONE BEING
SCARED.



BRAVE
GIRL.

WE'VE
GOT YOU.



--WAIT, WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?

WE'RE ALL FRIENDS WITH DRACULA NOW?

NOT EXACTLY.

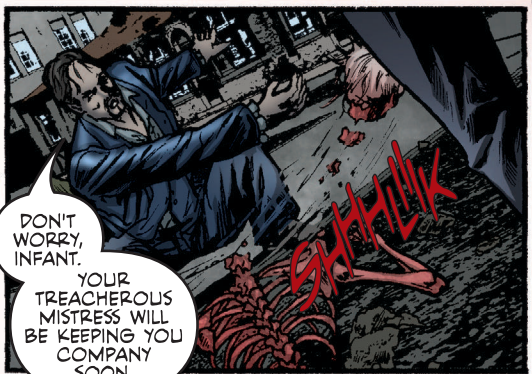
--BIG MISTAKE. MY MISTRESS IS COMING.

YOUR TIME IS DONE. SHE WILL--



--GAGGK

SHE CAN GET IN LINE.



DON'T WORRY, INFANT. YOUR TREACHEROUS MISTRESS WILL BE KEEPING YOU COMPANY SOON.



SO, UH, DO WE HAVE ANYTHING RESEMBLING A PLAN HERE?

YES. KILL THEM ALL.

TERRIFIC PLAN.

THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR, HUMAN. THESE ARE MERE WHELPS...

...CHILDREN THAT NEED REMINDING EXACTLY WHO RULES THE NIGHT.

NYYYIAARGH

THEY'RE STRONG, WITH A TREMENDOUS ADVANTAGE IN NUMBERS, BUT SOMETHING'S DIFFERENT.

THEY'RE SLOWER.

UNFOCUSED.

LETTING THEIR NUMBERS WORK AGAINST THEM IN THE CONFINED SPACE.

DRIVEN MAD BY HUNGER AND BURNED UP FROM WITHIN BY THE SICKNESS LE FANU HAS INFECTED THEM WITH.

WHICH JUST MAKES THEM EASIER PREY.

EASIER, BUT STILL
PLENTIFUL. STILL
DANGEROUS.



THERE'S
NO END
TO THEM.

FALL
BACK.

FALL
BACK TO
WHERE?

JUST
GO.



SLASH



SHLUK SHLUK



I'LL BUY
US SOME
SPACE.



WHAAM

COME
ON.
COME.



ON!

RRRRRRUMMMBLE

KA-WHOOOM



I CAN HEAR THEM, SCRABBLING AT THE RUBBLE.



AT BEST, I'VE JUST BOUGHT US A FEW MOMENTS.

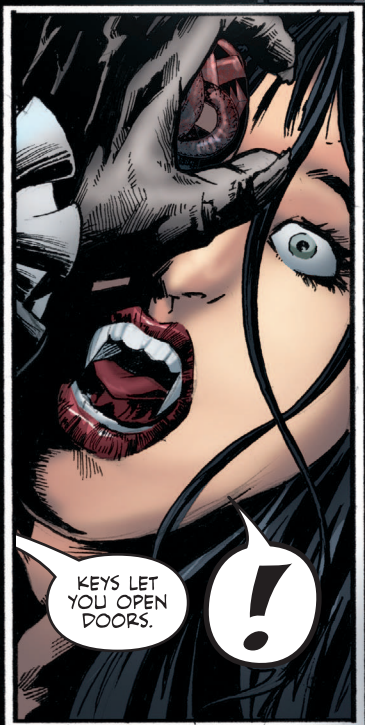


THEY'LL BE THROUGH THAT SOON.

SO, IF THIS KEY CAN SAVE US, TELL ME HOW.



IT'S QUITE SIMPLE.



KEYS LET YOU OPEN DOORS.

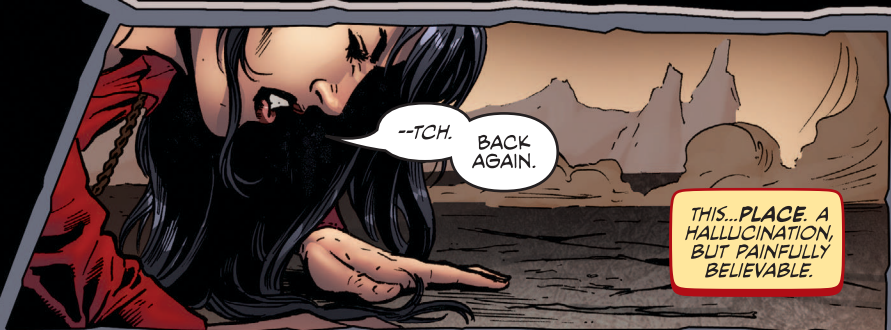


LYING, DOUBLE-CROSSING, BLOOD-SUCKING SON OF A BI--

BLACKNESS.

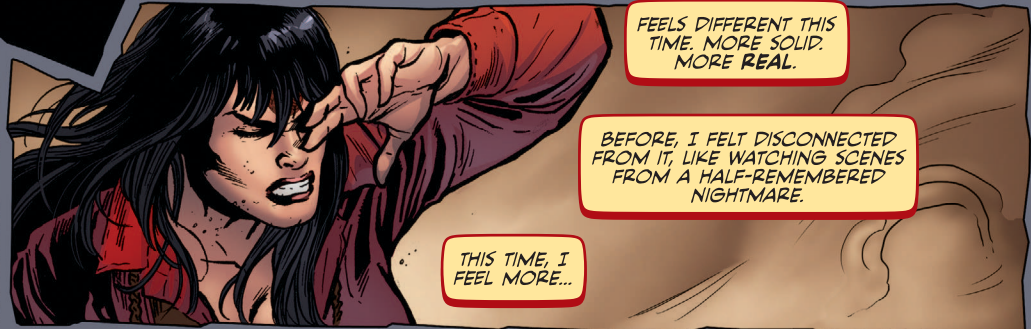
SCREAMING.

FALLING.



--TCH. BACK AGAIN.

THIS...PLACE. A HALLUCINATION, BUT PAINFULLY BELIEVABLE.



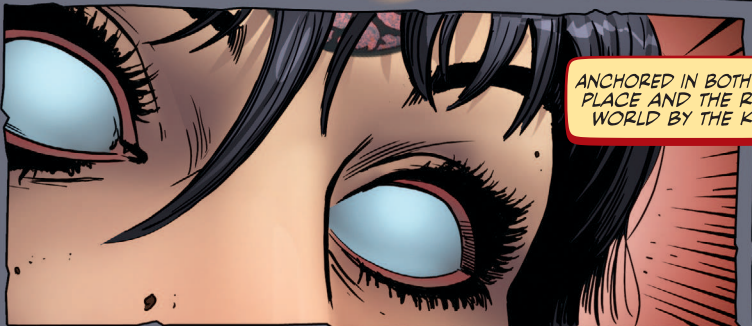
FEELS DIFFERENT THIS TIME. MORE SOLID. MORE REAL.

BEFORE, I FELT DISCONNECTED FROM IT, LIKE WATCHING SCENES FROM A HALF-REMEMBERED NIGHTMARE.

THIS TIME, I FEEL MORE...



...CONNECTED TO IT.



ANCHORED IN BOTH THIS PLACE AND THE REAL WORLD BY THE KEY.



LIKE SEEING THROUGH TWO SETS OF EYES AT THE SAME TIME.

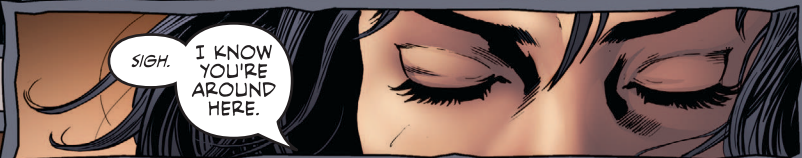
--THE HELL ARE YOU DOING TO HER?

NOTHING, GIRL. I GAVE WORD.

NOW, WE HAVE A CEREMONY TO ATTEND--



LIKE TWO WORLDS ON THE VERGE OF COLLIDING.



SIGH. I KNOW YOU'RE AROUND HERE.



AW. YOU MISSED ME, DIDN'T YOU, SUGAR?

CAN'T REALLY MISS MYSELF, CAN I?



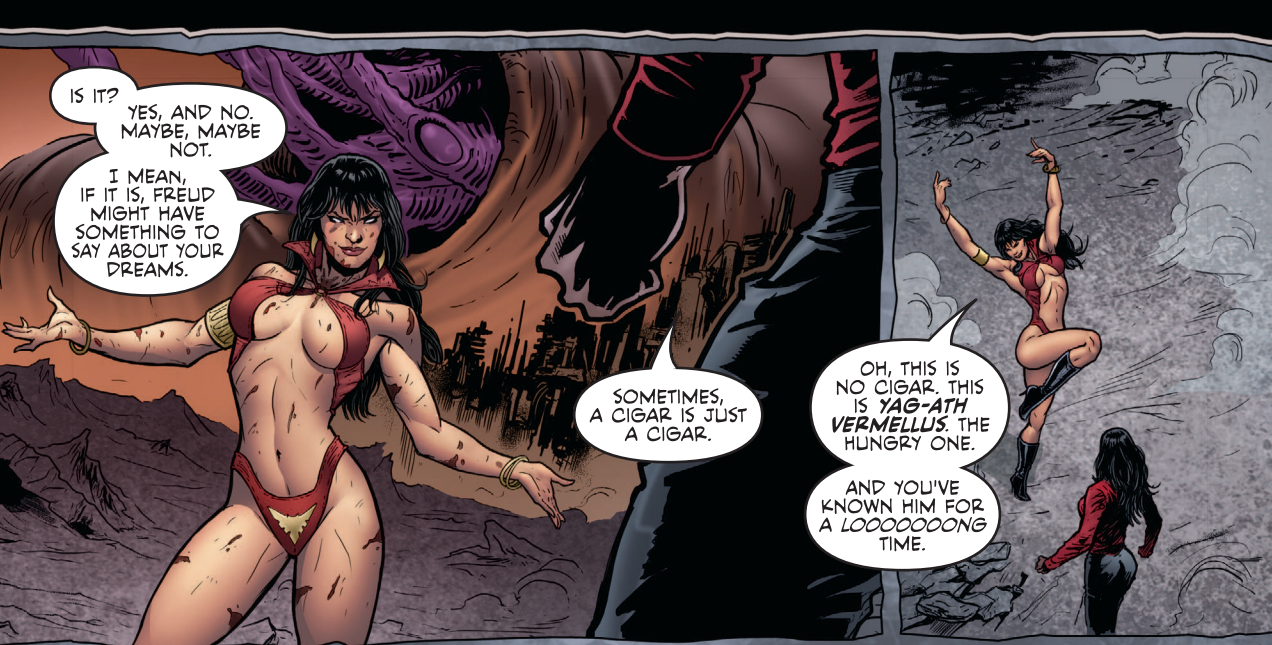
NOW, THAT'S THE REAL QUESTION, ISN'T IT?

YOU'RE STARTING TO FIGURE IT OUT, AREN'T YOU?



MAYBE. OR MAYBE YOU COULD QUIT SCREWING AROUND AND JUST TELL ME.

THIS PLACE: IT'S IN MY OWN MIND, RIGHT?



IS IT?
YES, AND NO.
MAYBE, MAYBE
NOT.

I MEAN,
IF IT IS, FREUD
MIGHT HAVE
SOMETHING TO
SAY ABOUT YOUR
DREAMS.

SOMETIMES,
A CIGAR IS JUST
A CIGAR.

OH, THIS IS
NO CIGAR. THIS
IS **YAG-ATH
VERMELLUS**. THE
HUNGRY ONE.

AND YOU'VE
KNOWN HIM FOR
A LOOOOOOONG
TIME.



OLDER THAN
CREATION.

BORN INTO
ICY REALMS OF
ANCIENT HORRORS,
AND DRIVEN BY ONLY
TWO THINGS: RAGE
AND RAVENOUS
HUNGER.

AND EVERY SO
OFTEN, CHEWING
A HOLE THROUGH
INTO OTHER
WORLDS.

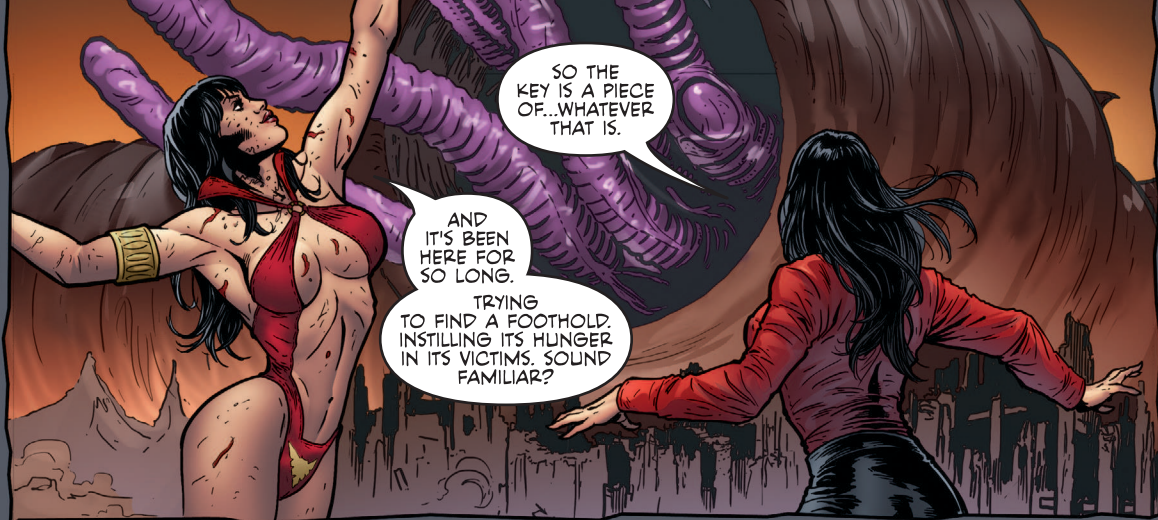
EXTRUDING
VICIOUS LITTLE BITS
OF THEMSELVES INTO
OUR UNIVERSE,
SEEKING OUT HOPE
AND LIGHT.

BECAUSE
TO THEM, HOPE
AND LIGHT ARE
FOOD.

FALLING
TO EARTH AND
THEN...

BOOM!

HILARITY
ENSUES.



SO THE KEY IS A PIECE OF...WHATEVER THAT IS.

AND IT'S BEEN HERE FOR SO LONG.

TRYING TO FIND A FOOTHOLD. INSTILLING ITS HUNGER IN ITS VICTIMS. SOUND FAMILIAR?



OH, DARK MOTHER...

IT ENCOUNTERED HUMANS MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO. TOUCHED THEM.



MADE THE FIRST VAMPIRE.



AND NOW, IT'S FOUND THAT FOOTHOLD IT SEEKS.

FOUND A QUEEN, TO SPAWN ITS CHILDREN AND TURN ALL THAT EXISTS INTO A FEEDING GROUND.



OH, SUGAR, IT'S GOING TO BE SO BAD FOR YOU.

I HOPE YOU'RE UP TO IT.



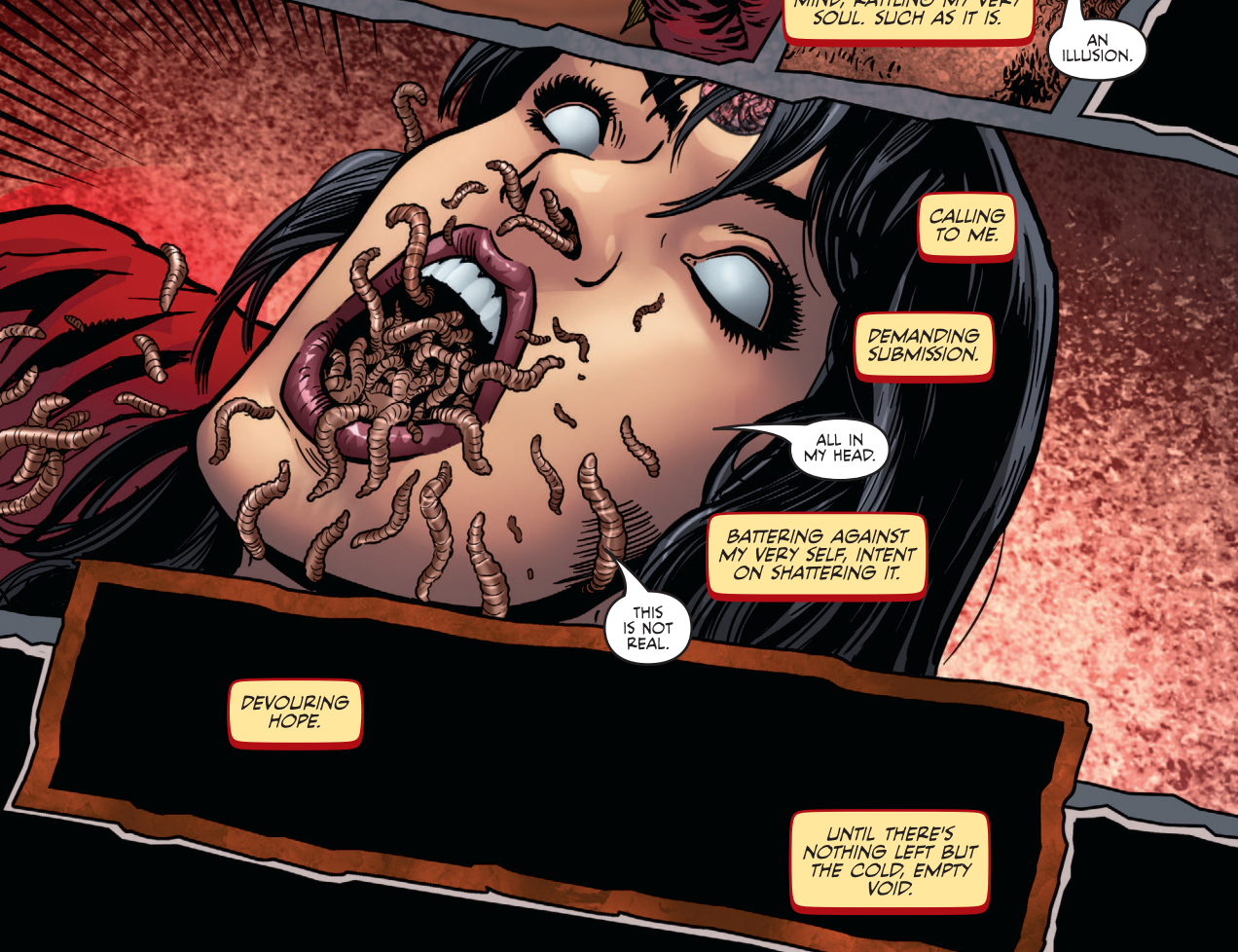
NO WONDER DRACULA FEARS IT.

IT SEETHES WITH HATRED.

NO.
IT'S NOT REAL.

I CAN FEEL ITS BOTTOMLESS HUNGER, BUZZING THROUGH MY MIND, RATTLING MY VERY SOUL. SUCH AS IT IS.

AN ILLUSION.



CALLING TO ME.

DEMANDING SUBMISSION.

ALL IN MY HEAD.

BATTERING AGAINST MY VERY SELF, INTENT ON SHATTERING IT.

THIS IS NOT REAL.

DEVOURING HOPE.

UNTIL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT BUT THE COLD, EMPTY VOID.

--BACK WITH US SOON, I HOPE.

AH. AWAKE. EXCELLENT.

BACK IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING. SO TO SPEAK.

DRACULA!

AND LOOK: THE GUESTS ARE HERE.

NOW IT'S A PARTY.

HELLO, LE FANU.

IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO GO, "MASTER." YOUR REIGN IS OVER.

I WILL HAVE WHAT WAS STOLEN FROM ME.

STEP ASIDE AND SERVE ME.

IT IS MY TIME NOW!

THAT'S A BIT PREMATURE, LE FANU.

HOW CAN YOU RULE WHEN YAG-ATH VERMELLUS HAS ALREADY CHOSEN HIS BRIDE?

AND YOU'RE JUST IN TIME FOR THE CEREMONY.

LONG LIVE THE QUEEN.

TO BE CONCLUDED...