

# SAVAGE 217

image



# SAVAGE DRAGON

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looking for love in all the wrong places.

Ant created by Mario Gully



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HELLO, MAXINE...?

YEAH, I'M...

SORRY, I COULDN'T BE THERE BUT DUTY CALLED.

WITH MALCOLM OUT OF TOWN I NEEDED TO...

UH-HUH.

NO BIGGIE. A HANDFUL OF DELUSIONAL DIP-SHITS WITH FUNKY HEADS. NO BIG NAMES.

I THOUGHT KEVIN WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THERE.

HAVE YOU HEARD FROM MALCOLM?



LAST I HEARD FROM MALCOLM, HE AND ANT TEAMED UP WITH SPAWN.

THEY'RE HEADING OFF TO NEW MEXICO IN SOME FUNKY HOMEMADE FLYING MACHINE TO TACKLE SOME HERMIT WHO'S GIVING SUPERPOWERS TO CRIMINALS.

KEVIN'S RUNNING LATE.

I JUST TEXTED HIM.



I'M AT THE GROCERY STORE.

I KNOW IT'S A BAD IDEA.

I KNOW.

I SHOULD HAVE WAITED FOR YOU OR KEVIN.



I JUST NEEDED A COUPLE THINGS...

UH-HUH.

YEAH. NO. THAT'S AMY SHRIEKING.

OH, IT'S QUITE A SCENE HERE.

AMY REACHED OUT OF THE CART AND GRABBED A CANTALOUPE, AND IT JUST EXPLODED IN HER HANDS.

NEXT THING I KNEW ALL THREE KIDS WERE SQUISHING MELONS AND SHRIEKING WITH DELIGHT.

IT'S TOTAL CHAOS HERE!

IN ANY CASE-- WE REALLY NEED TO COORDINATE OUR SCHEDULES BETTER.

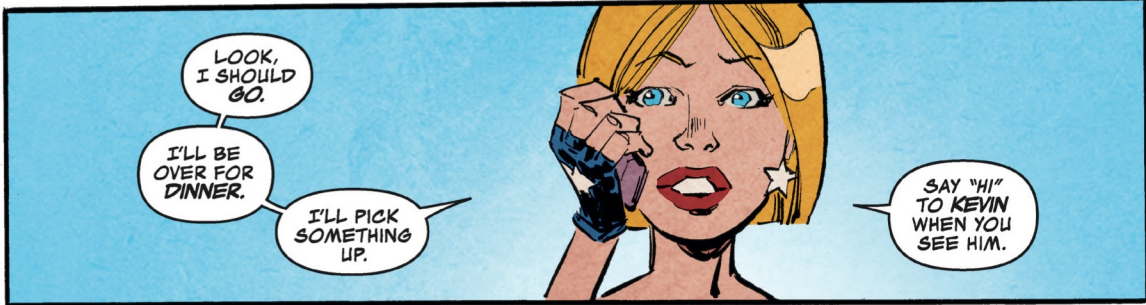


WHEN YOUR LOVING HUSBAND'S IN TOWN IT'S NO BIG DEAL, BUT WITH MALCOLM GONE--



I KNOW, I KNOW.

BUT I CAN'T JUST LEAVE THE CITY UNPROTECTED!



LOOK, I SHOULD GO.

I'LL BE OVER FOR DINNER.

I'LL PICK SOMETHING UP.

SAY "HI" TO KEVIN WHEN YOU SEE HIM.

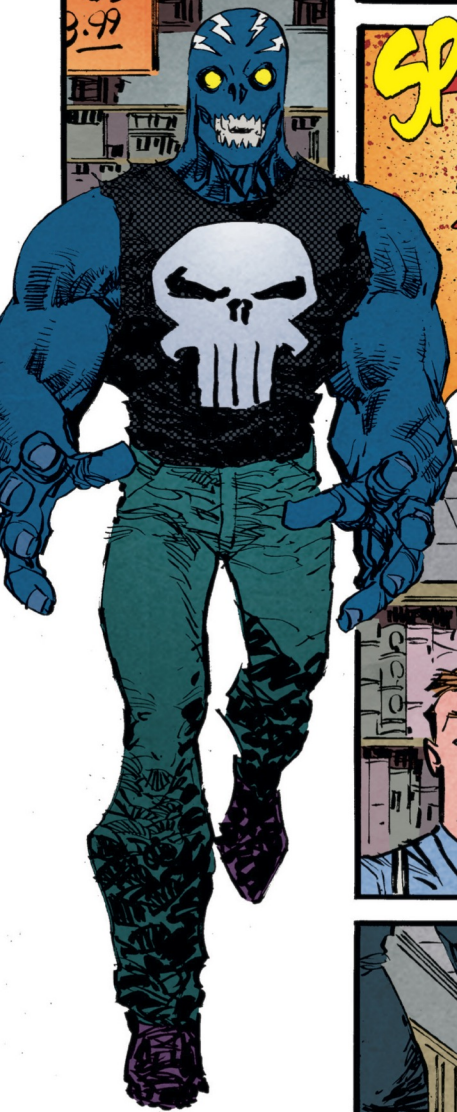
OH,  
JESUS!

I'M SO  
SORRY!

TRAFFIC  
WAS A  
BEAR!

I THOUGHT  
ANGEL WAS  
WITH YOU.

SALE  
3.99



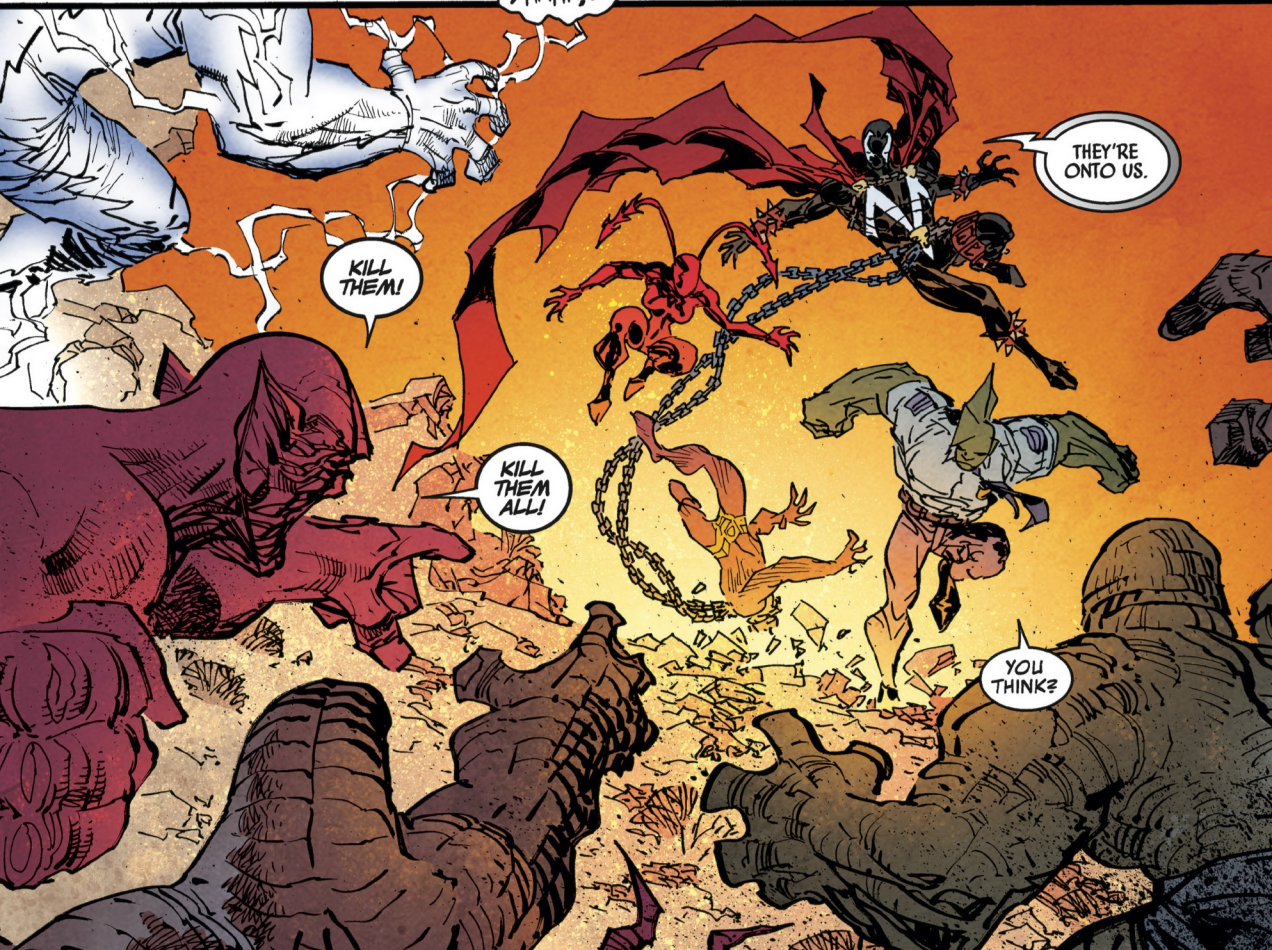
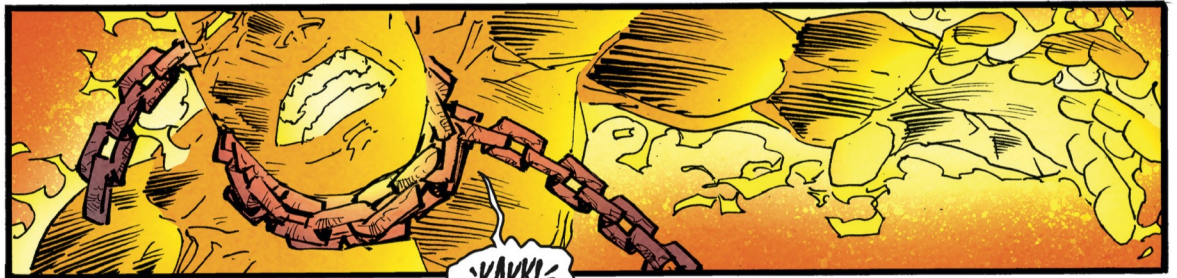


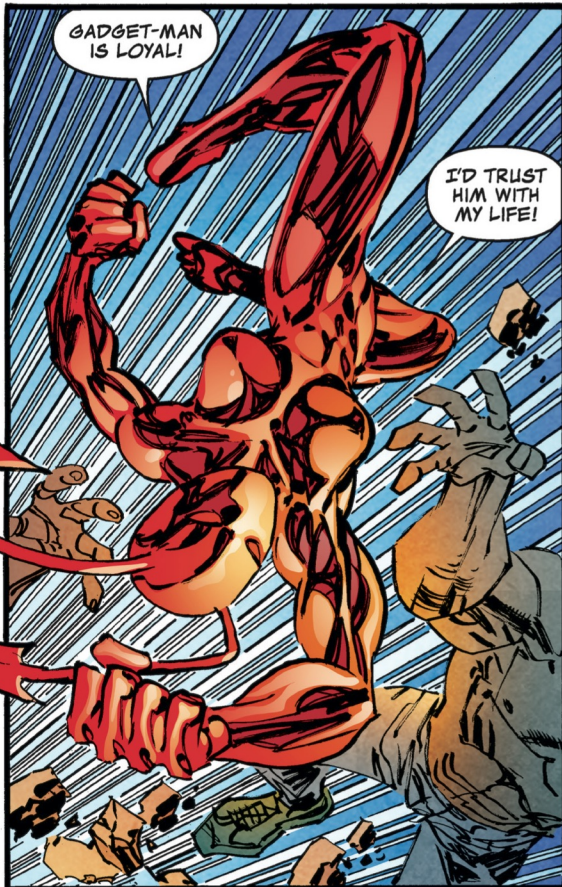
# BRANNIA-E

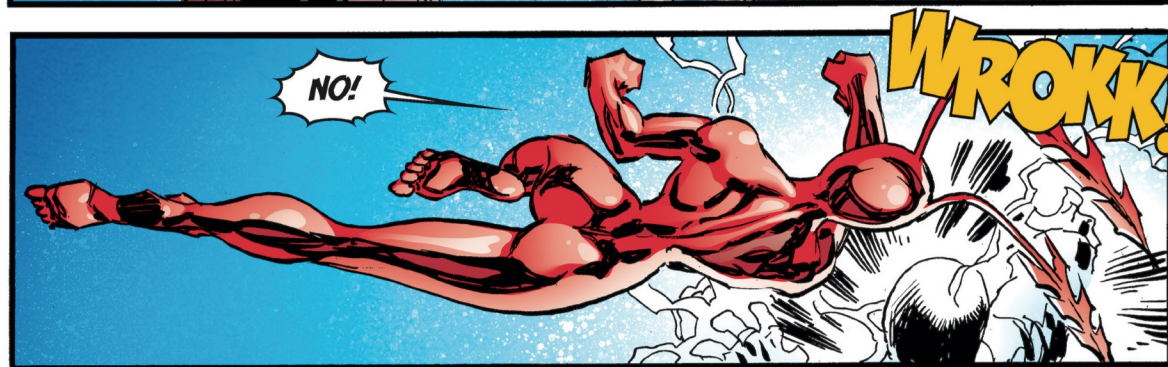


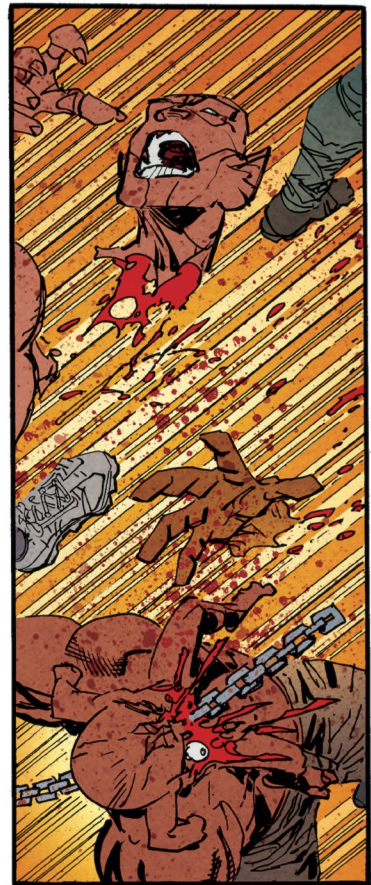
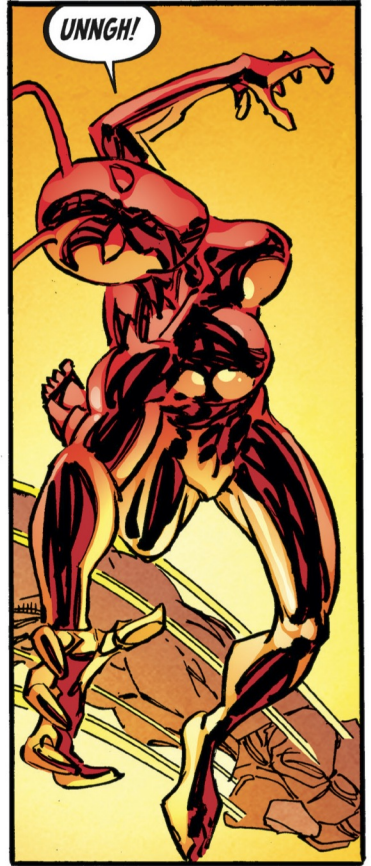
I THINK WE'RE GETTING CLOSE.

BOOM!!!





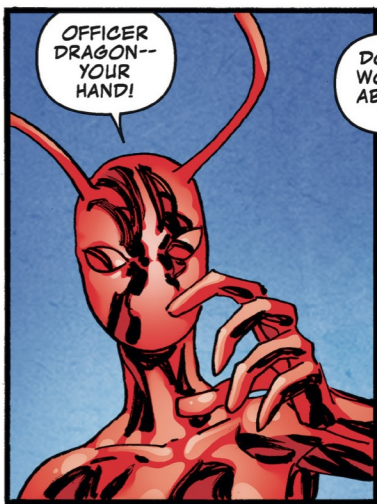






YOU OKAY?

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?



OFFICER DRAGON-- YOUR HAND!



DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

IT'LL GROW BACK.

NOW-- WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?



THEY WERE TRYING TO KILL US IN CASE YOU HADN'T NOTICED.

IT WAS THEM OR US.



WHY AM I EVEN HERE?



WE'RE HERE TO STOP ALZAYAH STONE.



I'M NOT A VIGILANTE. I'M A POLICE OFFICER, AND WE CAN'T JUST GO IN THERE AND EXECUTE THE MAN--!

DON'T GET ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY WITH ME, JUNIOR!

I WATCH THE GODDAMNED NEWS! I'VE SEEN WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE STREETS! COPS ARE BLOWING AWAY INNOCENT, UNARMED KIDS ALL THE TIME! KIDS WHOSE ONLY CRIME IS HAVING THE WRONG COLORED SKIN!

YOU THINK JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE A BADGE THAT YOU'VE GOT THE MORAL HIGH GROUND? THAT'S BULLSHIT!

THIS SON OF A BITCH IS GIVING SUPERPOWERS TO CRIMINALS AND HE HAS TO BE STOPPED!

YOU WANT TO QUIT-- GO AHEAD-- BUT DON'T GO THINKING YOU'RE DOING IT BECAUSE IT'S THE "RIGHT THING TO DO"-- BECAUSE IT ISN'T!

SO WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO? MURDER HIM IN COLD BLOOD? FOR WHAT? WHAT LAW IS HE BREAKING?

AND DON'T JUST TELL ME IT'S "FOR THE GREATER GOOD"-- THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH!

HE HAS RIGHTS TOO, YOU KNOW!

HE'S EMPOWERING ASSHOLES WHO ARE SLAUGHTERING THOUSANDS AND BREAKING YOUR PRECIOUS LAWS! HE'S GOT TO BE STOPPED, AND YOU KNOW IT!

WHO ARE YOU TO JUDGE ALL COPS? THE VAST MAJORITY OF US ARE DOING THE RIGHT THING-- UPHOLDING THE LAW.

IF WE'RE GOING AFTER THIS GUY-- WE DO IT BY THE BOOK! WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE JUDGE, JURY AND EXECUTIONERS.

WHY ARE WE TO BE CONDEMNED FOR THE ACTIONS OF A FEW BAD APPLES?

HOW DID DRAGON RAISE SUCH A GODDAMNED PUSSY FOR A SON?

GO FUCK YOURSELF, JUNIOR.

WHO NEEDS YOU?

YOU'RE SUCH A HYPOCRITE.

YOU CONDEMN COPS FOR PREJUDGING OTHERS, BUT YOU'RE JUST AS QUICK TO PREJUDGE ALL OF THEM.

IT'S REAL EASY TO PAINT THE WORLD IN BLACK AND WHITE. THESE ARE GOOD GUYS-- THESE ARE BAD. BUT THE WORLD'S NOT LIKE THAT.

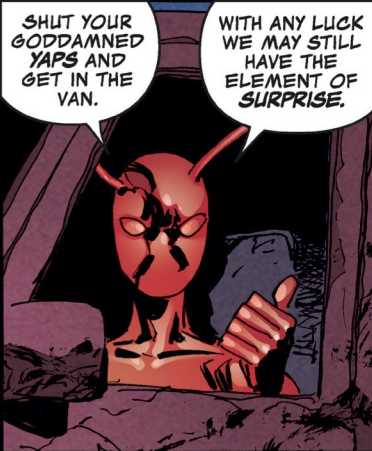
WE'RE ALL INDIVIDUALS. EVERY ONE OF US HAS OUR OWN HOPES, AND DREAMS, AND PLANS.



IT'S CONVENIENT TO PUT LABELS ON PEOPLE AND CALL THEM THEM ALL THE SAME BUT IT'S A LIE. IT'S JUST A WAY OF JUSTIFYING YOUR OWN PREJUDICES--YOUR OWN HATE!



HEY, YOU--



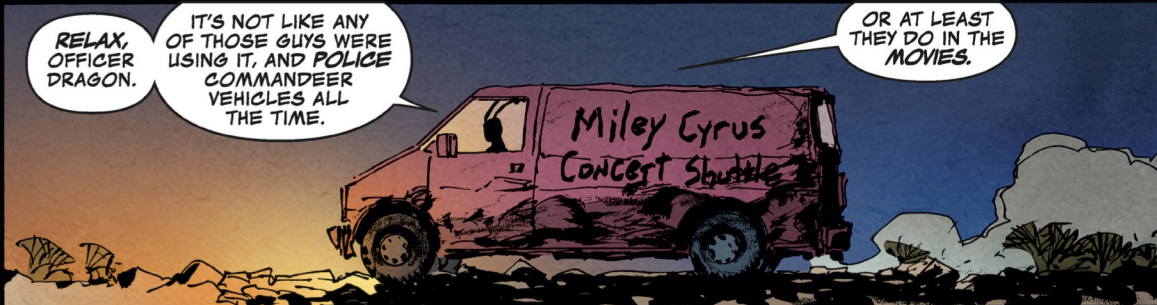
SHUT YOUR GODDAMNED YAPS AND GET IN THE VAN.

WITH ANY LUCK WE MAY STILL HAVE THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE.



NICE VAN.

SO I GUESS WE CAN ADD GRAND THEFT AUTO TO OUR LIST OF OFFENSES.



RELAX, OFFICER DRAGON.

IT'S NOT LIKE ANY OF THOSE GUYS WERE USING IT, AND POLICE COMMANDEER VEHICLES ALL THE TIME.

OR AT LEAST THEY DO IN THE MOVIES.





ALZAYAH'S EXPECTING US.

UH...

OKAY.



"THESE ARE NOT THE DROIDS YOU'RE LOOKING FOR."

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

NEVER UNDERESTIMATE A CONFIDENT TONE.

A PRETTY GIRL ALWAYS GETS PAST THE SECURITY AND INTO THE CLUB.



BY THE BOOK, YOU TWO.

IF HE ATTACKS, I'M GOING TO DEFEND MYSELF.

GIVE US THAT.



WE CAN'T JUST MURDER THE GUY.

WE NEED TO TALK HIM DOWN OFF THE MOUNTAIN. TAKE HIM INTO CUSTODY.



YEAH, WHATEVER.

DON'T GET YOUR HOPES UP.





WHAT REASON HAVE YOU COME?



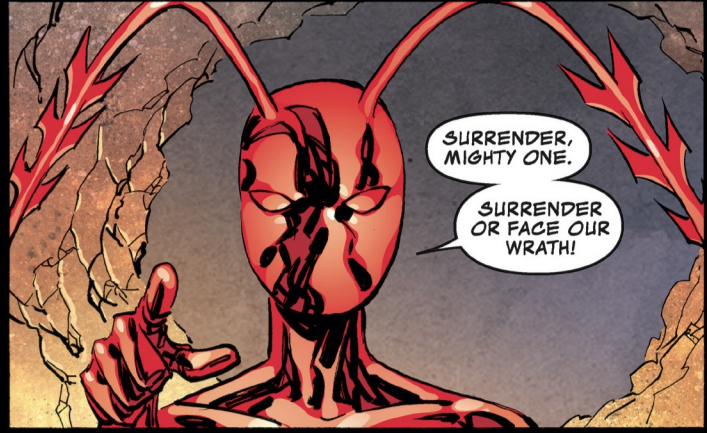
YOU HAVE UNLEASHED AN UNTOLD NUMBER OF HORRORS, "MIGHTY ONE."

MANY WHO HAVE ABUSED YOUR GIFTS, AND BECOME SCOURGES ON MANKIND, RAPING, STEALING, KILLING--



WE ARE HERE TO ASK YOU TO STOP THIS MADNESS.

VICTIMS ARE PILING UP. INNOCENT PEOPLE ARE BEING SLAUGHTERED LIKE CATTLE.



SURRENDER, MIGHTY ONE.

SURRENDER OR FACE OUR WRATH!

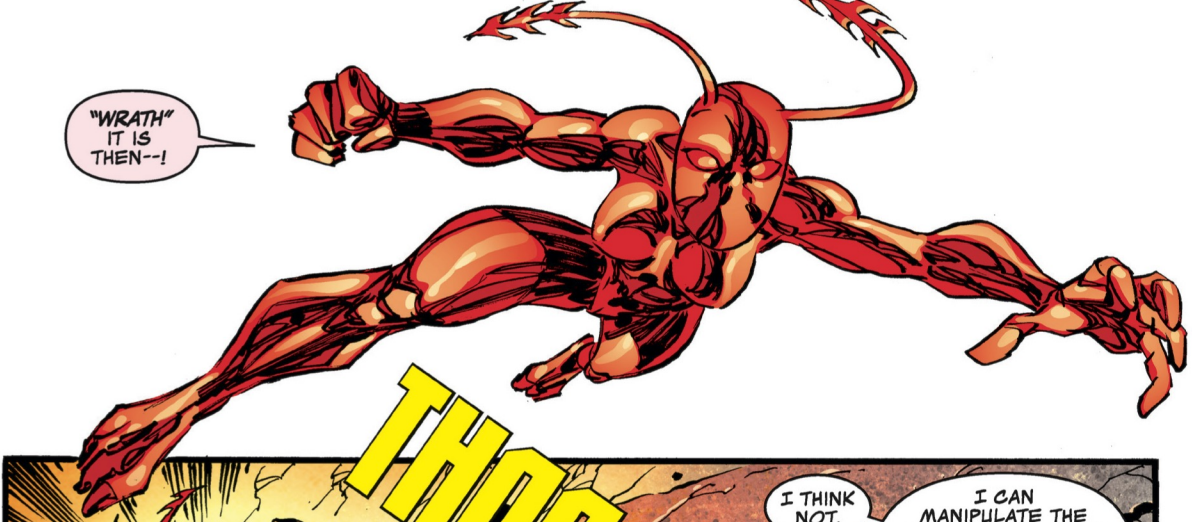


THE WORLD IS CHANGING.

I AM MERELY... HELPING IT ALONG. YOU HAVE YOUR GIFTS. WHY SHOULD OTHERS BE DENIED?

A STORM IS COMING. AND I AM HELPING TO PREPARE THOSE FOR THE STORM.

"WRATH"  
IT IS  
THEN--!



I THINK  
NOT.

I CAN  
MANIPULATE THE  
ATOMS IN THIS CAVE  
AS EFFORTLESSLY AS  
THOSE IN YOUR  
BODIES--WITH THE  
MEREST TOUCH.



**ANT!**

YOU  
MONSTER! IF  
YOU'VE HURT  
HER--!

**WRAMM!**



THIS  
ENDS NOW,  
VILLAIN!

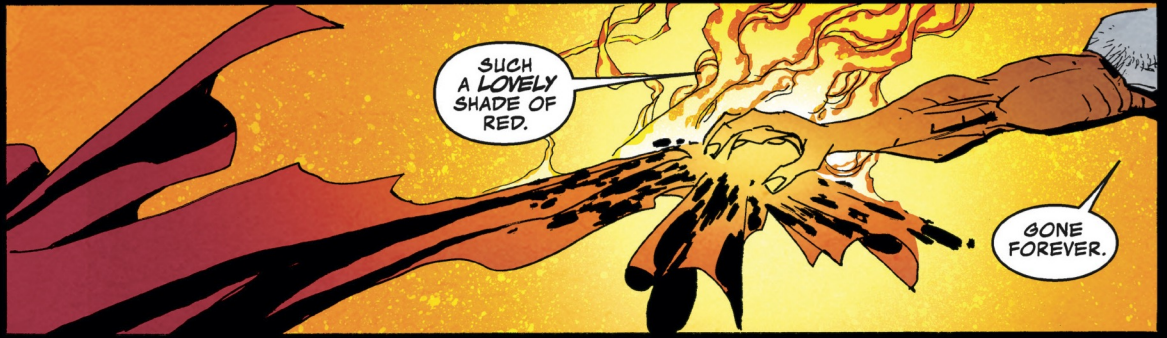


NO.

IT  
REALLY  
DOES  
NOT.



WITH A  
TOUCH, YOUR  
LIVING  
COSTUME  
MELTS AWAY  
LIKE ICE  
ON A SUNNY  
DAY.



SUCH A LOVELY SHADE OF RED.

GONE FOREVER.



HNNH!  
CAN'T LET IT INFECT THE REST OF IT--!

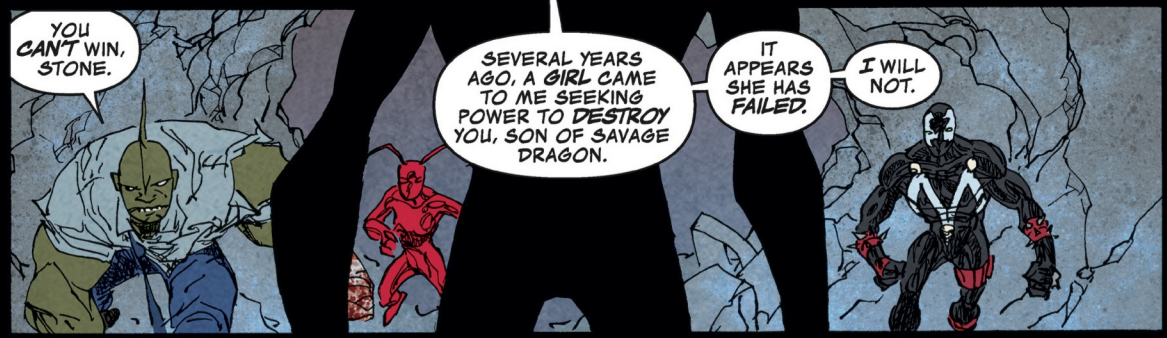


STOP!



COME NOW...

DID YOU REALLY THINK IT WOULD BE THAT EASY?



YOU CAN'T WIN, STONE.

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, A GIRL CAME TO ME SEEKING POWER TO DESTROY YOU, SON OF SAVAGE DRAGON.

IT APPEARS SHE HAS FAILED.

I WILL NOT.

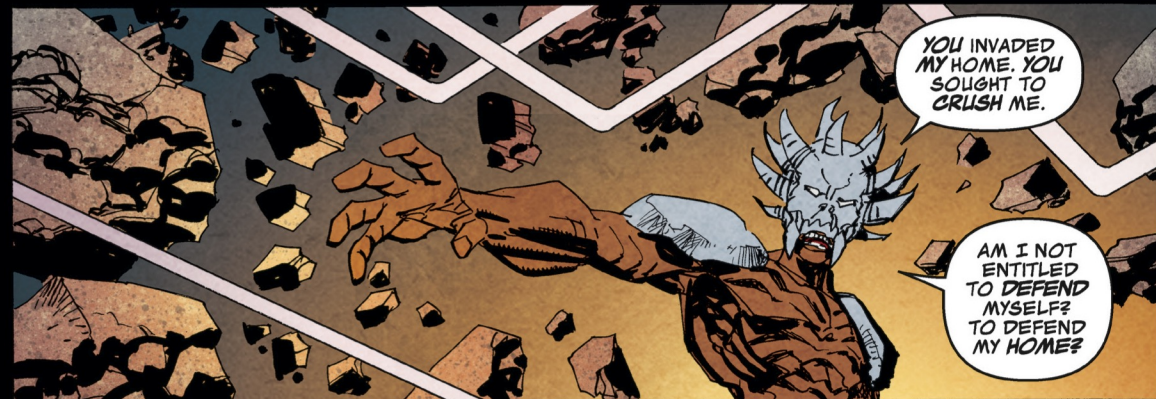


**BRANNA-BOOM!**



DAMN YOU!

I'D HOPED IT WOULDN'T COME TO THIS--!



YOU INVADDED MY HOME. YOU SOUGHT TO CRUSH ME.

AM I NOT ENTITLED TO DEFEND MYSELF? TO DEFEND MY HOME?





e-mail: Erik@savagedragon.com

visit our website at [www.savagedragon.com](http://www.savagedragon.com)

Hoo-boy! Sorry to drop you into the middle of things this month but last issue continued into the pages of SPAWN #266 and this issue picks up from there. So, if you're at all confused, do yourself a favor and give SPAWN #266 a gander. And if that doesn't help--try downing a bottle of scotch. It won't make the story make any more sense--but you won't really care.

But enough of my witless blather! It's time for some of yours--!

Hey Erik,

Dragon 214 was another great issue. Powerful cover. Some great profile drawings, like Malcolm on page 1. The pages of the building being held up and crumbling are just incredible, then the two page spread is spectacular...this is one of the many reasons why I love your comics, the explosive "jump off the page" energy you bring with your pencil.

Dart continues to impress me as a ruthless villain...maybe frighten is a better word than impress. Barry...poor kid...trying to do right by his mom, trying to do right by his lover, then dying by doing the right thing trying to save Angel and the babies. There are some great profile drawings of Barry too.

Angel's rage unleashed was great to see, cursing at the assholes for taking advantage of Barry and kidnapping kids. I hope they get the triplets back and that Dart gets wounded, escapes, and comes back even more bad ass and terrifying.

I'm a fan who is happy to see Malcolm's electric powers back and the panel of him using the power is beautiful. I also love the idea of a super powered baby, throwing a fit like babies do but it's super destructive. Pretty cool. Savage Dragon has long been a favorite of mine, I've re-read the series a bunch of times, and I've seen online chatter from a few younger readers that are getting into it, loving the pure comic book chaos of it, the layers of story, the humor, and the great cast of characters.

Thanks for making comic gold month after month.

Jake Ingman

**My pleasure. Thanks for being here.**

Hey Erik,

I was all stoked to pick up the new issue, 215, the Wednesday it went on sale. Lo and behold it wasn't delivered to my LCS, so I waited an extra week. I guess in the grand scheme of things, not too much of a biggie. When I first get handed a new issue I always thumb through it on the spot a couple of times, front to back, back to front, front to back again. After so many years collecting the book, it's habitual ritual.

The first cool thing about this issue I noticed right away was the, for lack of a better term, grittier crustier inking. I always like when you deviate from a more polished look on the art. Especially for this particular issue, the story merited it. There's also that subtle touch of grit, sandpaper look, in the coloring too. Like an extra layer of dust or something? Whatever Nikos did in that regard, it looks nice.

The Malcolm and Alison showdown was pretty damn epic. That gnarly two page spread with the Dragon babies hanging from their ankles made me bite the first knuckle on my index finger like a nervous virgin! So much inking goodness there too, with the spatter, and mounted heads of the VC. Alison's dialog had me laughing though. THERE'S MY BIG BOY. WEARING BIG BOY CLOTHING JUST LIKE HIS DADDY. Something about thinking about how the words BIG BOY would actually sound if spoken. I've been calling people BIG BOY for years, just a thing I do, so it really tickled my funny bone.

I just hope the blood transfusion Malcolm provided Barry wasn't all for naught. That last page is a doozy! Who gets theirs?! Just a red field with the spatter!! At first I was all like, come on man is this really a page? But then I read it and got a pretty big grin. A very ballsy storytelling choice. Humdinger of a cliffhanger! Bring on 216 and more!

Good Times!

Nick Justus  
West Orange, NJ

**By this point you know the answer, Barry exploded and the concussive blast brought Dart down.**

Erik,

How did Dart become evil? Sorry, but I don't really remember how

or when it happened, only having read sporadically for years. But boy has Dart become relevant now! Huh? And recently, since the whole evil thing started, and I guess the sword thing (gonna have to replace that God Sword or whatever it's called now, huh?). Makes me think there may be hope for More characters from the late, lamented and long ago Freak Force series! Maybe Horridus could go bad; become one of those little creatures that sit on villains soldiers while they mastermind stuff? Mighty Man could stand to be a lot more serious--hey, wait, what if ALL of Freak Force became infected with evil??? Like at the same time? Then Dragon...Malcolm...whatever, would Really have his hands full!

It's getting to be like more than half the characters in this series have green skin and fins on their heads! Just an observation. Generally I think it's time to leave the city!!! What I mean is, Dragon, the original, is a space character; and if the current Captain Marvel can be a space character even just having been born on Earth, well then--!!? I don't think much, honestly, of the usual Savage Dragon backup story, sorry; 'cept maybe for the name "Aquaria". Hey, here's a thought: What if Aquaria and Marine Man team up?...With Dragon? That might not be very Good thought. When was the last Powerhouse appearance? And how can you go so long in-between appearances!?! Technically Powerhouse, a character I like from way back, there's nothing stopping him from being a Savage Dragon friend/ accomplice/ aid/ hero--like Angel! Right? And speaking of, the evolution of Angel Dragon over the last, what, century is really quite something; she used to look like Little Orphan Annie!

Mr. Glum on trial...? Why wasn't he summarily executed? Like that Solar Man character was, few years back. He could be executed now, really; why waste money on a trial, where he could theoretically manipulate anything anyone says? He Conquered the World!

Generally speaking, SD #215 was enjoyable; but I think that eventually you've gotta wake up. How about putting all of the SD characters, relatively speaking, on a space team--Space Strike Force?--and have them proactively take out threats throughout time and space? ... Or something like that! I'm not a writer, okay? Just aim a little higher, please! Saving one city? DOES get old! And what's to stop the Vicious Circle, etc, etc, from just leaving Chicago?? If they all go to different places/ cities/ states, you know what would happen, don't you? They could all be crime lords!! And Dragon can't be everywhere all at once can he? Can't just hop a jet to whatever city is in the crime news every time, can he? He'd get tuckered!! So I encourage you once again to start thinking more outside the box via the often-great Savage Dragon series. Also: When was the last time you introduced a completely New Villain? OR hero!?!...will we ever see Dragon the original and Malcolm Dragon fight???

Cheers,

Andrew J. Shaw

**Dart's journey was detailed in the pages of SAVAGE DRAGON #149. Like so many, it's not so much a case of something turning her evil as it was a case of neglect, abuse and her own ambition to do as she pleased and get what she wanted.**

**The Dart in these pages is not to be confused with Jill August, who was part of Freak Force, years ago. This is Jill's niece, Alison Summers. So it's not so much the case of a hero turning evil as it was of a ambitious young girl heading down a dark path.**

**As far as Glum goes--typically, criminals are given a fair trial in this country--even if the evidence of their crimes is overwhelming. That just how we roll.**

**And we saw Dragon and Malcolm fight (kind of) back in SAVAGE DRAGON #157 when Dragon had reverted to his Emperor Kurr persona. It didn't end well although I suspect things might go differently now that Papa Dragon had his powers removed. Still, they really have no reason to knock each other around.**

Hey Erik,

Please don't tell me you just blew up Barry!!! No, I was happy that he survived being cut in half. Then you go and end issue 215 with a large splatter of blood. I'm still hoping when I get the next issue Barry will be holding a crushed Dart head in his arms. That girl needs to die! Thanks again for another amazing issue and I'd also like to give a big round of applause to the guys over at Dragonfan.net for their awesome Dragon podcast. You guys ROCK!

Thanks,

Guy LeMay  
P.S. Will Lorella ever change those clothes?

**Barry is no longer with us, I'm afraid.**  
**As for Lorella--y'know, Superman wears the same set of clothes every day and nobody bats an eye! If it's acceptable for Superman--I see no reason that it shouldn't be acceptable for Lorella!**

Hey Erik,

I've always been surprised by how ruthless Dart II/Alison is compared to Dart I/Jill. I thought I understood her initial motivation as seeking revenge for Mako accidentally slaying her aunt but her calculated efforts and actions are just over the top evil. I realize Overlord had a habit of vaporizing people that gave him bad news but Dart chopped up so many of her underlings as well molested a super powered boy (only to chop him in half as well) and threatened to kill babies with a SKULL shaped satanic looking pool filled with something vile (I thought it was a portal, honestly). I still don't get what the Vicious Circle does for her and I don't know if we'll ever find out. Something isn't right with her.

The god sword gets broken into tiny bits, does that mean there's god shivs now?

Liked the, very rational, explanation for why police don't casually use freak out. Rules of engagement for an unusual world followed by normal cops. Kind of amazing that it's observed because the city always feels like it's at the brink of ruins with super freaks in crime. We've been so hyper-focused in Chicago for so long, it's hard to see how the rest of the world is like in this book. How's Australia doing?

There was something to the coloring. I liked it. It was distinctly darker. Like there was no underlying white tone to the paper. I'm not sure what effect you were going for but it reminded me of painting on cardboard. I'm pretty sure, aside from word balloons and the gutter, there were no pure white tones in the panels. Oh whoops, you did briefly mention it in your letter column intro. Still worth pointing it out.

Also super happy to see Gary Fields featured again in the back ups. I would love to see you and him collaborate on something. Maybe a Mr. Glum short? Maybe a Next Issue Project (should that ever happen again)? Keep it up, Erik

Ami Gorgoroso  
PS Woo-hoo! Older Sam Haze in action!

**The Next Issue Project is pretty much dead. As fun as it was the books simply didn't sell well enough for them to continue. Gary Fields is welcome to do as much as he wants to in these pages. His work is always welcome.**

Dear Savage Larsen,

I just wanted to write in and tell you how happy I am with the direction of The Savage Dragon.

First off, I like all of the experimentation done with the art. The issue that consisted of double page spreads was fantastic. It felt like the part of a movie where everything gets really exciting and the action sticks out. To see this type of cinematic excitement brought to a comic was really cool and it did not feel like a gimmick. I also like the panel grid experiments you did with several issues. You simply don't see this level of craftsmanship in mainstream comics today.

Also, I really enjoyed the anniversary issue where you brought on Herb Trimpe as a guest penciler and guest inker. It was a real joy to see one of my favorite Hulk artists work with you. I know you have wanted to work with him for literally decades and to see that happen just months before he passed away was a real culmination on so many levels. It's too bad that the younger readers don't have the sensibility to appreciate how much of a milestone that was.

I also have to say that I am really enjoying the current direction of the book. It doesn't feel forced or sales driven. It feels like a natural progression of the characters and their journey. I can see that once you changed the focus of the book to Dragon's son that you got a second wind, so to speak. I know that drawing and writing your own title is your dream, but I can really see the renewed enthusiasm you have taken with the book now that the focus has shifted to the secondary characters. I am enjoying it way more than I thought I would. It doesn't feel contrived at all. You are developing the story from a character standpoint. Not from a sales standpoint.

Keep up the good work.  
Simon Parducci

**Y'know, changing from Dragon to Malcolm has given me a second wind! In a weird way it feels as if I'm working on a whole new book with a whole new cast. And part of that is because I am! I certainly have all kinds of love for Papa Dragon but working on the book of late has been a total blast. Glad to hear that it's working for**

**you as well.**

Greetings Erik (Re: Savage Dragon #215).

Malcolm asks Dart what is it she wants and her reply is very appropriate as I've been asking the same for a long while now. Hopefully she has more planned than simply being another VC crime boss — even though she is clearly psychotic and dangerous, I feel like Malcolm still hasn't come across an actual new antagonist of his own yet. Wait and see, I suppose. We missed out on some of Malcolm's younger years with him being in Dimension-X so it'll be nice to see the Dragon kids grow up with the real-time aspect of the book (given that they survive of course, doesn't look too good for Barry if I got that last page correctly). Your artwork experiments are really refreshing. I loved the Herculean-esque pages (that and the Ashley Wood inspired inking of the previous ones). The flat coloring was also a welcomed change. Keep up the amazing work, sir!

Simon Mallette St-Pierre  
Montreal

PS. a bit late but I'd love to see more backups by Gavin Higginbotham and Mark Welser! That backup in #208 was the best I've seen in a long time.

PPS. when my LCS has extra copies of the book (those not on shelves), I buy additional copies and they're then given as freebies to similar genre comic readers' pull lists — not the most imaginary of buying incentives but hopefully it'll get new readers to hop on.

**You're a champ! Thanks for that!**

Dear Erik,

I finally got around to reading Savage Dragon #215. It's good stuff, and has one of your most ambiguous and intriguing cliffhangers in a while. I liked some of the art experiments, too. I noticed a lot of fine cross-hatching going on. The coloring has also looked a lot better since about #181 or so.

Between the last issue and this one, I actually re-read every single issue. I've been here since the beginning, but it's fun to go through the entire epic every once in a while. Looking at Savage Dragon as one long story often works better than reading an issue at a time. It makes sense as a whole, and also shows the many experiments you do in the art and writing. Mostly, it's a reminder that I you've earned a giant benefit of the doubt from me, and I don't doubt you very often. This Savage World was not my favorite era, and I'll admit my interest waned at the time, but it works as apart of the whole. Similarly, I know there was some controversy with the stories about Malcolm's group sex sessions, but it seems now that it was mostly about setting up the situation with the "triplets." If anyone ever has doubts about an issue, they should trust that it's all part of the plan. Or, at least, it will eventually seem like you had a plan.

My one question is about "Louise." Is it going to be revealed why Dragon's daughter was born looking human (and still has ten toes)? Or is that just a fluke?

Thanks for the years. Eagerly looking forward to more.  
Taylor Porter  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

**I think Maxine's response to Angel in SAVAGE DRAGON #213 is about as accurate as anything in regard to her daughter: "Malcolm's mother was a human! Malcolm's half-Dragon. Our baby is another generation removed from that! She's a quarter-Dragon! Of course she's going to look a little different!"**

**Essentially, the little tyke is enough steps removed from Dragon and the Krylan race that the human part is a bit more prevalent than the Dragon part, and that accounts for the differences. Of course, nothing is absolute. Things clearly did not work out that way with her brothers, but who knows what the next generation might bring? Their offspring might very well be in the same boat!**

-Erik Larsen

**NEXT: A day in the life!**

**Hey, don't stop reading now--there's plenty of additional funny-book fun to be had in the pages that follow--!**

BE SWIFT,  
MY LOVE.

WHILE  
YOU SNIFF  
AROUND, I'LL  
BE YOUR  
EYES AND  
EARS.

REMEMBER,  
MY SOURCE SAYS  
"HANNAH HART"  
IS THE HIGH-SOCIETY  
WIDOW WHO GOT  
BURIED WITH  
MILLION-DOLLAR  
HEIRLOOMS.

GRAVE-ROBBING  
IS MY LEAST FAVORITE  
WAY TO GRIFT BUT WE CAN'T  
PASS UP A BIG TICKET,  
BLACK MARKET ITEM.

BESIDES, PHARAOHS  
WENT OUT OF STYLE  
MILLENNIUMS AGO.

AND, UNLESS PROVEN  
OTHERWISE, THERE IS  
NO AFTERLIFE TO  
FLING YOUR BLING.

WHY BURY GOOD  
TRADE THAT COULD  
HELP PAY FOR A  
NEW SCHOOL--

--A HEALTH CLINIC  
FOR THE MENTALLY  
CHALLENGED--

--OR DAILY FOOT RUBS,  
ORGANICALLY GROWN  
FOOD, AND A SECOND  
PENTHOUSE?

WHERE ARE YOU, HANNAH HART?  
C'MON HANNAH, SHOW ME--

BEATRICE...?

BEATRICE  
HART

BEATRICE HART WAS  
RELATED TO THE HART  
DYNASTY? OF COURSE.

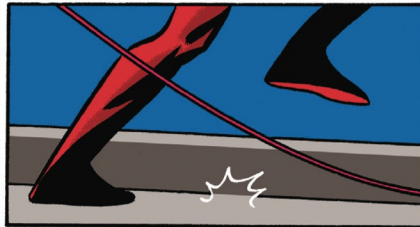
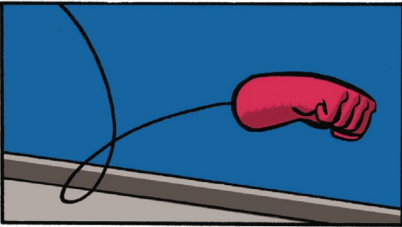
HEY,  
SAM.

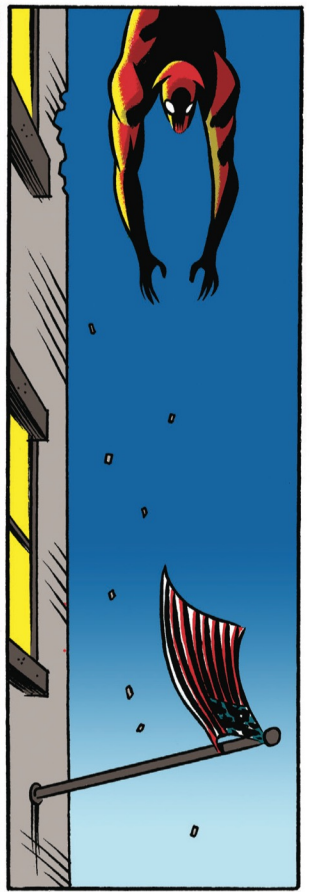
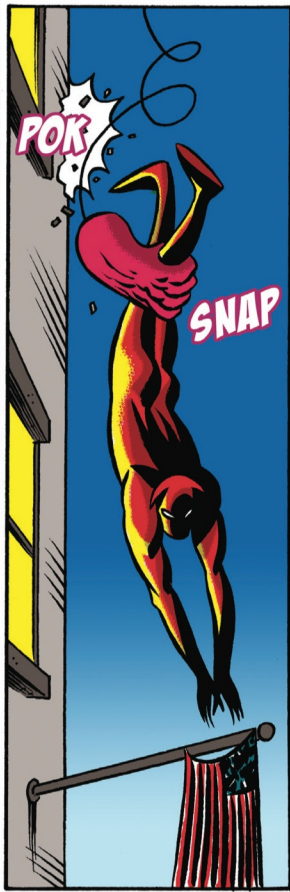
SO, THIS IS WHERE THE  
BEE STING WOUND UP.

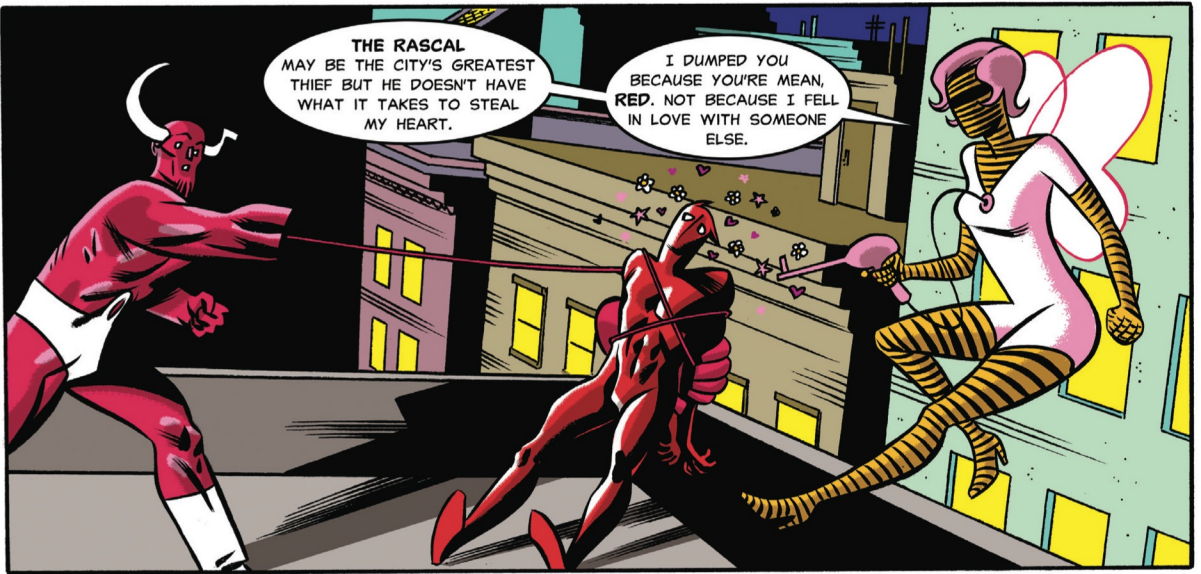
MIND GIVING  
A GIRL SOME  
ROMANCE  
ADVICE?

# HOOKING THE RED HOOK

CREATED BY  
DEAN HASPIEL

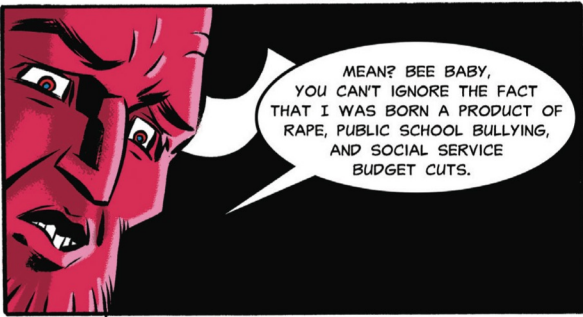






THE RASCAL MAY BE THE CITY'S GREATEST THIEF BUT HE DOESN'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO STEAL MY HEART.

I DUMPED YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE MEAN, RED. NOT BECAUSE I FELL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE.



MEAN? BEE BABY, YOU CAN'T IGNORE THE FACT THAT I WAS BORN A PRODUCT OF RAPE, PUBLIC SCHOOL BULLYING, AND SOCIAL SERVICE BUDGET CUTS.



I'M SORRY BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO HATE. I SHOWERED YOU WITH MY LOVE BUT YOU'RE DEAD INSIDE.

PLEASE, DON'T FORCE THE WRATH OF MY STING.

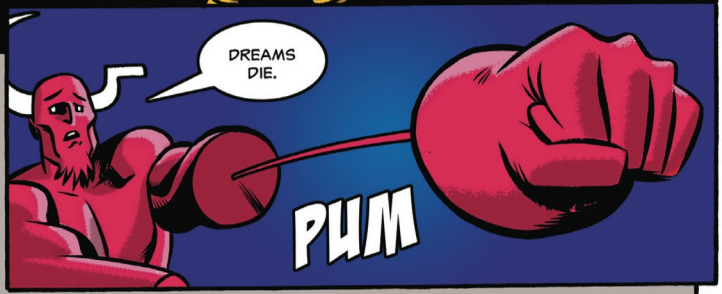


CAN'T WE SETTLE THIS SQUABBLE OVER AN EXPENSIVE BOTTLE OF STOLEN WINE? I'M BUYING.

SHE'S MINE! IF I CAN'T HAVE HER, THEN NOBODY CAN.

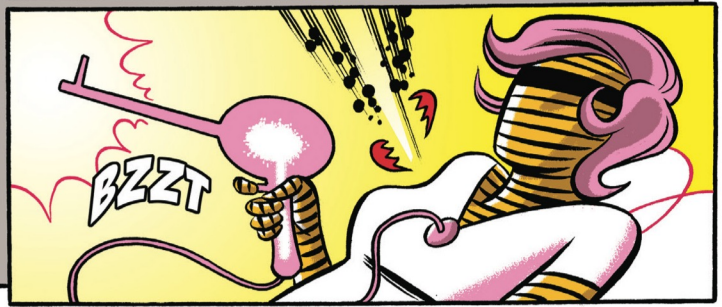


I'VE NEVER HAD ANYONE CALL MY BLUFF. YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A BEE USES HER STING?



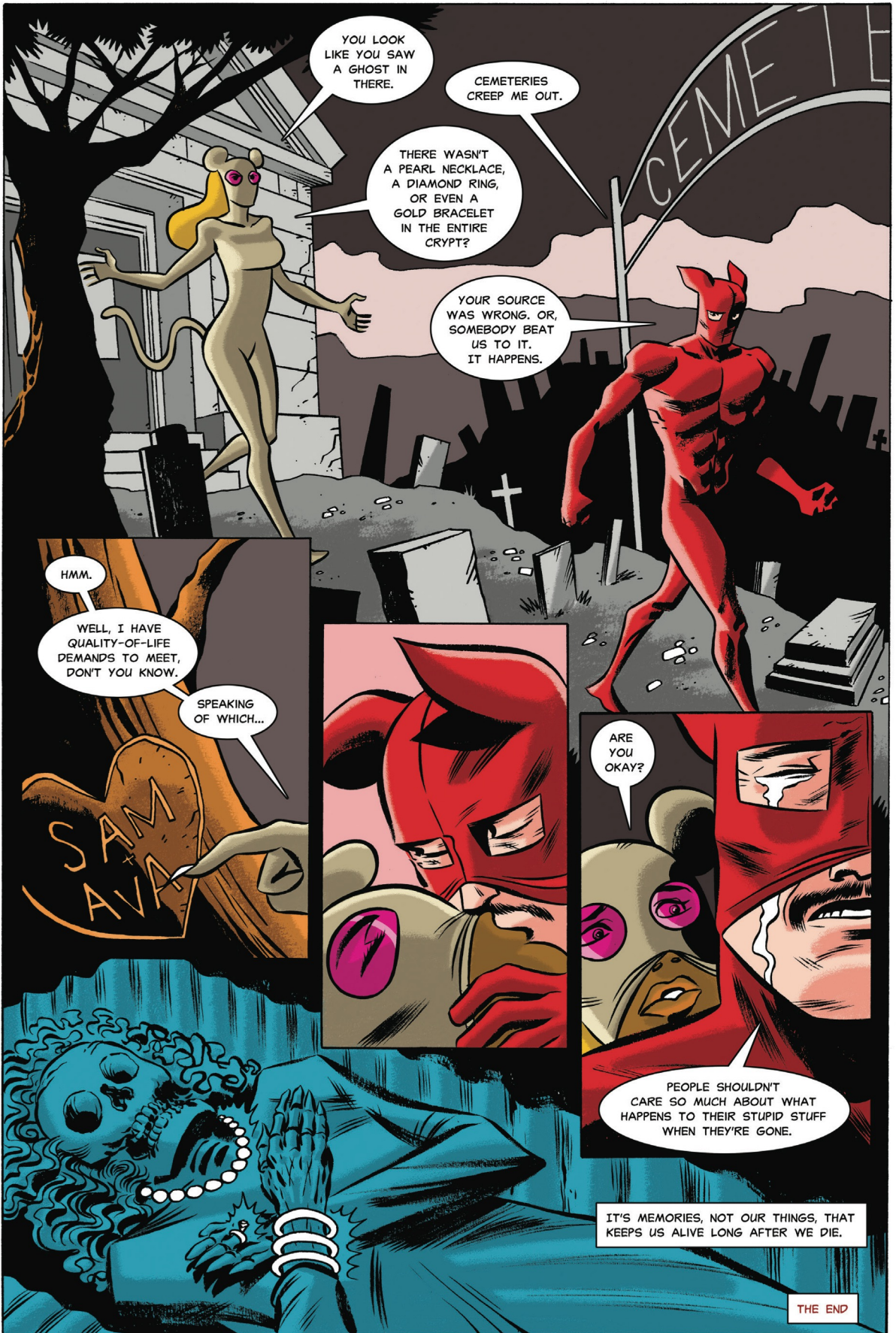
DREAMS DIE.

PUM



BZZZT





YOU LOOK LIKE YOU SAW A GHOST IN THERE.

CEMETERIES CREEP ME OUT.

THERE WASN'T A PEARL NECKLACE, A DIAMOND RING, OR EVEN A GOLD BRACELET IN THE ENTIRE CRYPT?

YOUR SOURCE WAS WRONG. OR, SOMEBODY BEAT US TO IT. IT HAPPENS.

HMM.  
WELL, I HAVE QUALITY-OF-LIFE DEMANDS TO MEET, DON'T YOU KNOW.

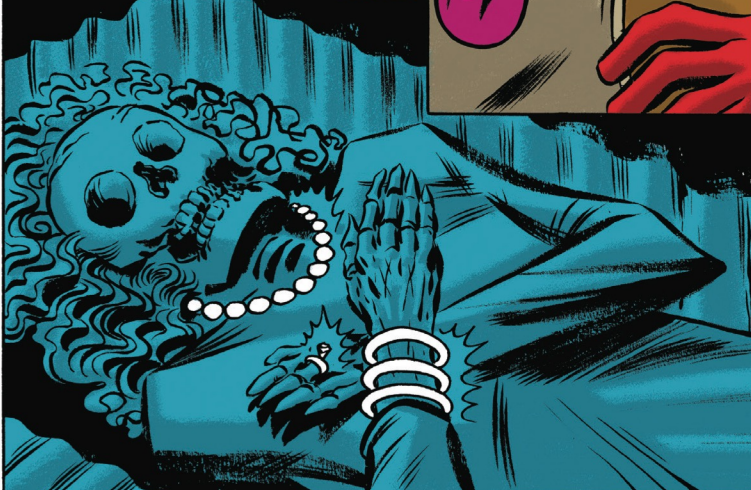
SPEAKING OF WHICH...



ARE YOU OKAY?



PEOPLE SHOULDN'T CARE SO MUCH ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS TO THEIR STUPID STUFF WHEN THEY'RE GONE.



IT'S MEMORIES, NOT OUR THINGS, THAT KEEPS US ALIVE LONG AFTER WE DIE.

THE END

# F U N N I E S

MILO & ULTI-MUTT

by Boy Akkerman



DRAW BRANDON DRAW

by Brandon B.



Brandon B.

# THE RED HOOK

**BROOKLYN'S  
SUPER THIEF**

*DINO!  
2016*

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