

image
Shadowline
SPECIAL:
BRAGA #1

RAI QUEENS™



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TESS 2014

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The morning after the Orc raid on Palisade...



MILK AND A SPOONFUL OF SUGAR.

PERFECT. THANK YOU.



YES, MOMMY IS AWAKE YOU LITTLE SHIT. CAN I HAVE FIVE MINUTES WITH MY GUEST, PLEASE?

PICKLES IS A BIT POSSESSIVE. AND HE'S A REAL ASSHOLE.

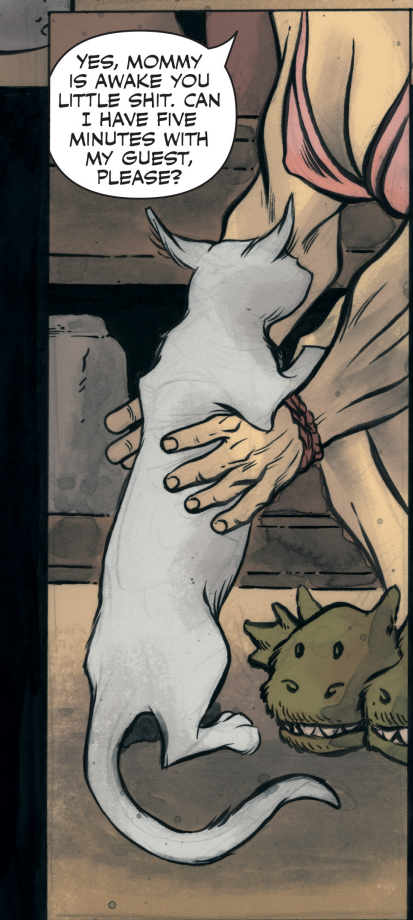
I'M SURE HE FITS RIGHT IN CONSIDERING WE LIVE IN A TOWN FULL OF 'EM.

HAH! IT DOES HAVE ITS FAIR SHARE.

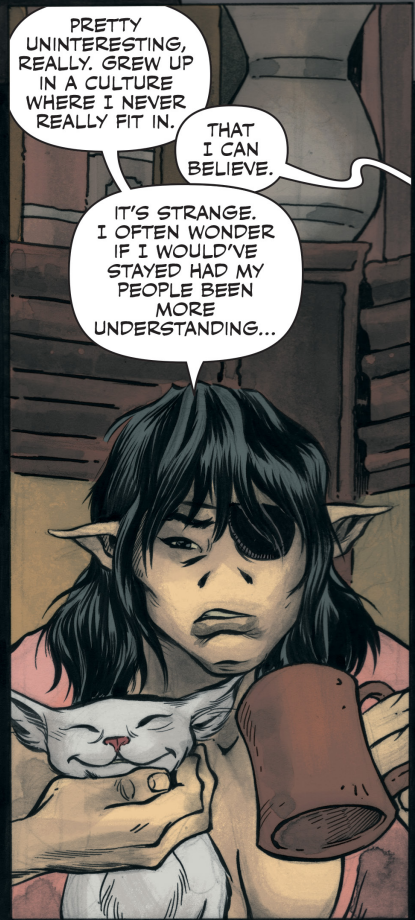
PRETTY UNINTERESTING, REALLY. GREW UP IN A CULTURE WHERE I NEVER REALLY FIT IN.

THAT I CAN BELIEVE.

IT'S STRANGE. I OFTEN WONDER IF I WOULD'VE STAYED HAD MY PEOPLE BEEN MORE UNDERSTANDING...



SO, WHAT'S YOUR STORY BRAGA? AFTER SEEING YOU FIGHT... I HAVE ALL KINDS OF QUESTIONS.



"IF THEY'D JUST
ACCEPTED ME
FOR WHO I WAS."



FEELS
LIKE WE
WERE JUST
HERE.

AT LEAST
IT MATTERS
THIS TIME. IF
WE WIN, OF
COURSE.

I
ALWAYS
WIN.





AND THAT'S THE FUCKING PROBLEM.

BEING A GREAT LEADER IS A GOOD THING, BROOG. EVERYONE HERE PUTS THEIR LIVES IN YOUR HANDS. HOW IS THAT A PROBLEM?

YOU ABOVE ALL SHOULD KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT.



WHEN YOU'RE CHIEFTAIN, EVERYTHING WILL CHANGE.

MAYBE.

READY TO REPEAT THIS HORRIFIC CYCLE OF BLOOD AND VIOLENCE?

DON'T HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO.



A LOT OF GOOD PEOPLE ARE GONNA DIE TODAY!



LET'S GO!



VERY INSPIRING.

SAME OLD SHIT, KIRUK.



SHICK



THWAK

CHUNK

BLARRG!



BLURCH







THEY
BREAK
FOR THE
HILLS!



SPARE
THE FLEEING
COWARDS!
THEIR SHAME
WILL KILL THEM
FOR US.



RAHHH!



RAA YHHHHHHHHH YHHH!

VICTORY!



DON'T BE AFRAID. TELL HIM.

EASY FOR YOU TO SAY, KIRUK.

YOU'RE NOT THE ONE ABOUT TO THROW ONE THOUSAND YEARS OF ORCISH CUSTOM INTO THE SHIT HOLE.

PRETTY SURE IT'S BEEN THERE FOR THE PAST THOUSAND YEARS ALREADY.





I'VE SPOKEN WITH THE GRUNTS. THEY REVEALED IN THE VICTORY. I HAD HOPED YOU WOULD COME TO ME AND SHARE THE GLORY YOURSELF.

I'M SURE THEY TELL IT MUCH BETTER, POPS.



IT WAS *YOUR* VICTORY. YOU TELL THE STORY AS YOU WANT IT TO BE REMEMBERED. FUCK THE TRUTH.

LIE YOUR WAY TO IMMORTALITY?



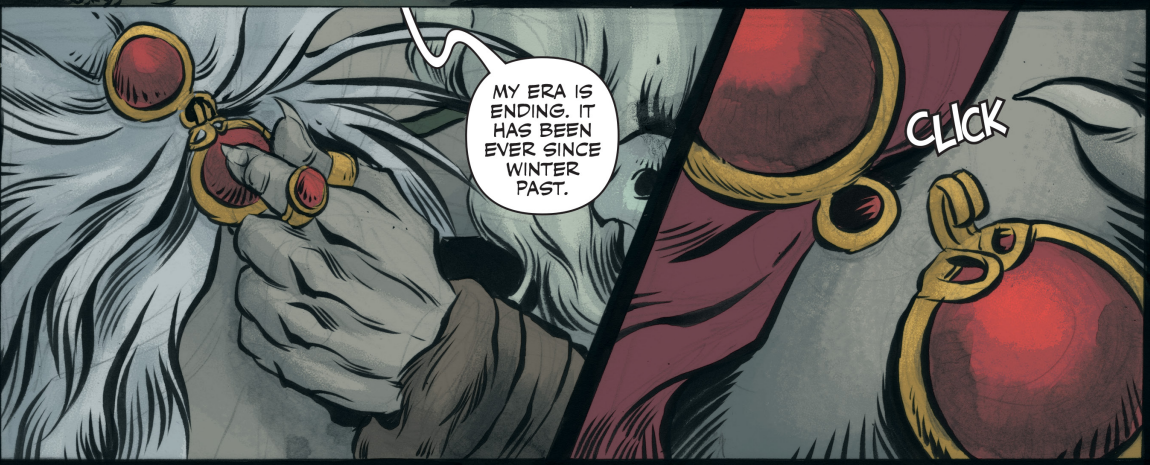
THE GREATEST OF ORCISH TRADITIONS.



YOU KNOW WHY I BROUGHT YOU OUT HERE.

I DO.

IT'S TIME.



MY ERA IS ENDING. IT HAS BEEN EVER SINCE WINTER PAST.

CLICK

ORCS WILL NOT FOLLOW THE ONE THEY CALL BROKEN.

DON'T BE A FOOL, FATHER. THEY DON'T--

DON'T.





TODAY WAS YOUR TENTH VICTORY AS COMMANDER. YOU SUFFERED FOURTEEN CASUALTIES BUT INFLECTED SEVENTY. YOUR ENEMY FLED LIKE MANGY DOGS.

IT *IS* TIME, BROOG.



WHAT TERMS DID YOU ISSUE?



I ENSURED WE WOULD NOT GO TO WAR AGAIN ANYTIME SOON.

WHAT. TERMS?

I DID AS YOU ASKED.




SURRENDERING OF THEIR BLACKSMITHS AS OUR SLAVES. THEY WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO CREATE WEAPONS OF WAR.



ENSLAVING MEMBERS OF THEIR TRIBE? THAT'S YOUR SOLUTION TO END THIS BLOOD FEUD?


YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.



THIS IS WHAT YOU ASKED OF ME! WHAT DON'T I UNDERSTAND?

IT BEGAN WITH *THEM*, SON! THEY SLAUGHTERED US! ENSLAVED US!

WHY DO WE FIGHT THE ROCKBREAKERS, FATHER? TELL ME! WHERE DID THIS BEGIN?




A THOUSAND YEARS AGO! YOU SAID IT YOURSELF, WE LIE TO CREATE A LEGACY! THAT'S WHAT I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU! PUT AN END TO THIS WAR!

NO FUCKING TERMS OR CONDITIONS! AN OFFER OF PEACE IN ONE FINAL SHEDDING OF BLOOD.

THAT'S WHAT I WANTED WHEN I TOOK YOUR PLACE. A NEW ERA FOR MY TRIBE. HOW WASN'T THAT CLEAR, FATHER?

OUR PEOPLE... BLOOD IS THE ONLY LANGUAGE WE SPEAK.

I'M ALL OUT OF WORDS.



IS THAT YOUR ANSWER THEN? YOU REFUSE TO LEAD OUR TRIBE BECAUSE IT'S NOT *GOOD* ENOUGH?



MAYBE WE WERE. ONCE. I DON'T KNOW.

WISH I DID.



DIDN'T GO SO WELL, DID IT, FATHER?

NO. YOU WERE RIGHT.

I HAD HOPED THIS BATTLE WOULD CHANGE HIM. IT'S ONLY MADE HIM WEAKER.



THEN DO WHAT IS RIGHT FOR THE TRIBE. CHOOSE ME IN MY BROTHER'S PLACE.



YOU KNOW I CAN'T. YOU ARE NOT THE OLDEST SON.

LISTEN TO ME, VOON. VERY CAREFULLY.

BROOG IS A YEAR OLDER. HOW DOES THAT MATTER? I WILL LEAD LIKE A FUCKING WARRIOR!



I DID ALL I COULD FOR YOUR BROTHER. HE HAS MADE A CHOICE I CANNOT LET STAND.

EVEN SO, YOU ARE NOT MY OLDEST SON.



THE TRIBE IS ALL THAT MATTERS.



Wooooo!



HA
HAHA
HA!



Splash!





I'M LEAVING.



I WAS WONDERING WHEN WE'D HAVE THIS CONVERSATION.

I HAD HOPED THAT FATHER WOULD CHANGE HIS HEART WHEN I WON THE BATTLE TODAY. BUT... IT'S EXACTLY THE SAME. HE TRIED, YOU KNOW?

WE'RE ORCS. THAT'S THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT.

YOU'RE DIFFERENT. THAT'S SOMETHING.

AM I?

OUT ON THAT BATTLEFIELD, I FUCKING REVEL IN THE SLAUGHTER. THAT SLOW BURN OF RAGE RISING FROM MY GUTS TO MY NECK. WHEN THAT BLOOD SPLASHES ME, THE BURN IGNITES.

IN THAT MOMENT, I WANT NOTHING MORE THAN TO DRINK THE RED STUFF TILL I VOMIT AND FUCK EVERYTHING IN SIGHT.

WE ARE SO FUCKING WEIRD.

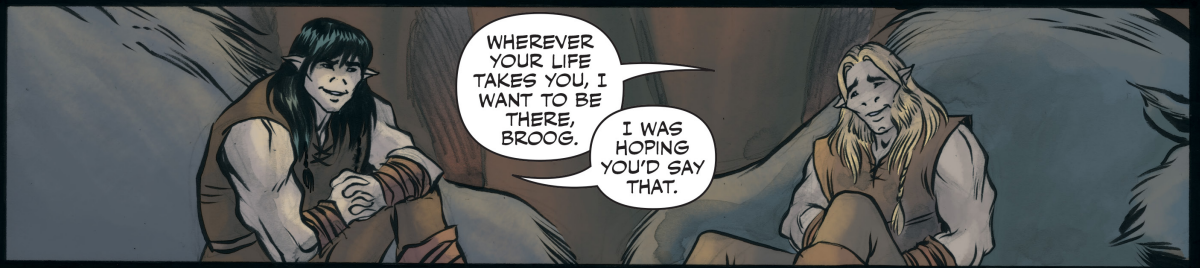
YOU TAUGHT ME TO READ AND WRITE, BROOG. IN THREE LANGUAGES. YOU ARRANGED A PEACE TREATY WITH THE HUMAN TRADERS SO WE CAN LIVE IN WARM HOMES.

THAT WAS MOSTLY SELFISH. NOT A LOT OF ORCS WRITING BOOKS THESE DAYS.

THEY BROUGHT MORE THAN BOOKS TO US. THEY GAVE US A TASTE FOR THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

OPENED OUR MINDS TO THE IDEA THAT MAYBE THERE'S MORE THAN... THIS... OUT THERE.

THAT MAYBE WE'RE MORE THAN WHO WE THINK WE ARE.



WHEREVER YOUR LIFE TAKES YOU, I WANT TO BE THERE, BROOG.

I WAS HOPING YOU'D SAY THAT.



YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND.

AND I LOVE YOU.



NOW THAT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU HEAR EVERY DAY FROM AN ORC.

SHUT THE FUCK UP!



I'D FOLLOW YOU THROUGH ALL HELLS, BROOG.

GLAD TO TAKE YOU WITH ME, KIRUK.



WHAT THE FUCK DO WE HAVE HERE? A CUDDLE PARTY?

I'M WOUNDED, BROOG. NEVER INVITE ME OUT ANYMORE!



VOON! WHAT IS THIS?

OH, SOMETHING I THOUGHT YOU'D APPRECIATE. WITH YOUR SMARTS AND BOOKS AND SHIT.



A POLITICAL CUP.



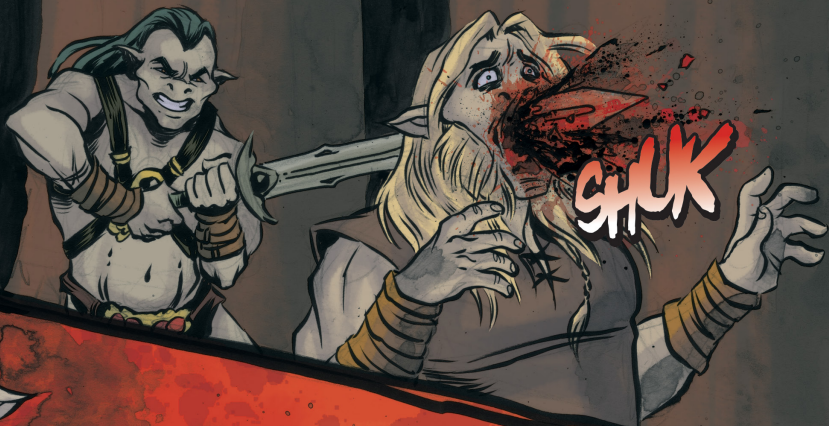
THAT'S COUP, DOG FUCKER, AND THERE ISN'T ANYTHING POLITICAL ABOUT THIS.

YOU WANT TO BE CHIEFTAIN? TITLE'S YOURS, BROTHER.



THAT'S THE PLAN, BROOG. JUST HAVE TO CUT IT OUT OF YOU.

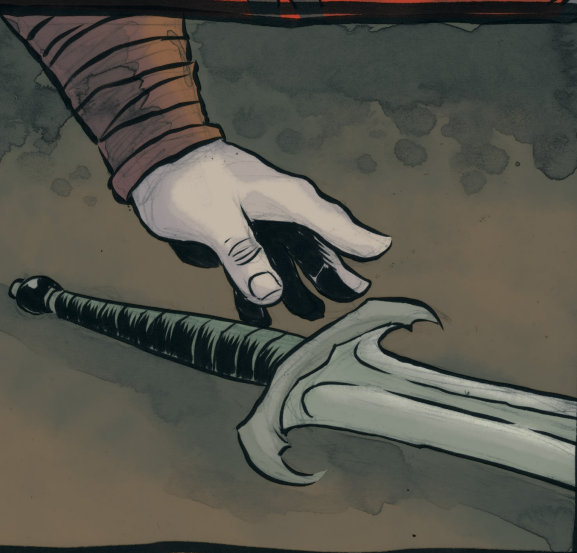
SORRY ABOUT THAT.



KIRUK!



KILL.



BROTHER!





AHHHHH!



SNARL.

SHUNK



SHWIP

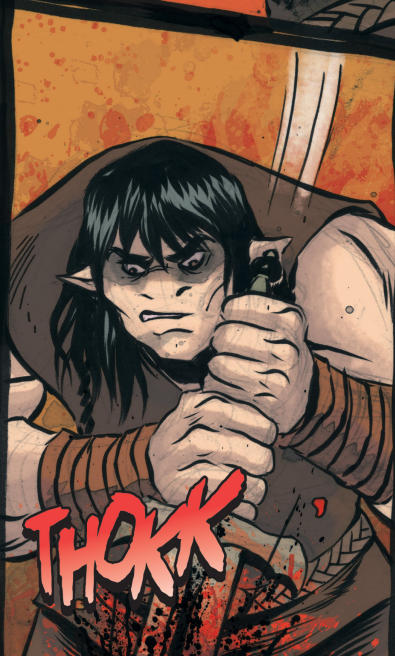


SQUELCH

SHUNK



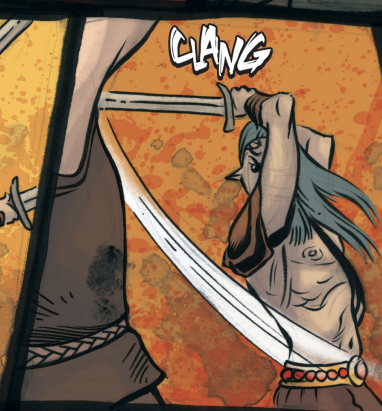
BROOG, I'M SOR--



THORR



GRK







YOU CAN'T WALK AWAY! YOU'RE MY ELDEST SON!

NOT YOUR SON.

YOU WILL THROW AWAY YOUR RIGHTFUL PLACE AS CHIEFTAIN? YOU WALK OUT THAT DOOR, YOU FORFEIT OUR NAME!

DO YOU UNDERSTAND?



CURSE YOU, BROOG! I SPIT ON YOUR MEMORY! YOU WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR WHAT YOU ARE!

A BASTARD!



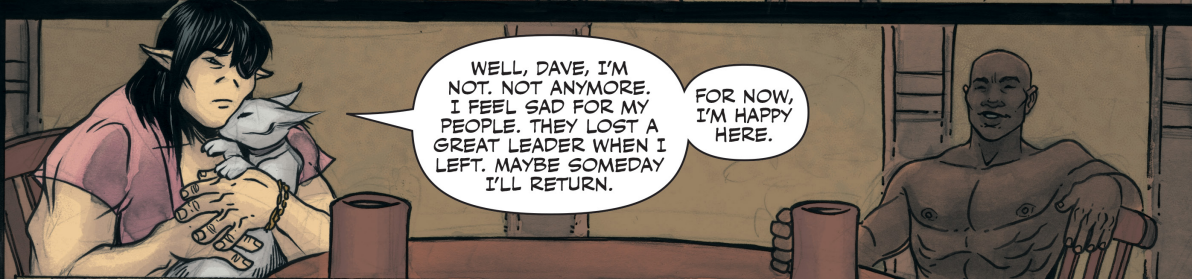
GOOD. LET THE BARDS SING MY FUCKING ACCOLADES.

"WHICH LEADS ME TO NOW. COFFEE AND BREAKFAST WITH MY NEW FUCK BUDDY."





HUH. NEVER WOULD'VE GUESSED YOU TO BE THE DAUGHTER OF AN ORC CHIEFTAIN.



WELL, DAVE, I'M NOT. NOT ANYMORE. I FEEL SAD FOR MY PEOPLE. THEY LOST A GREAT LEADER WHEN I LEFT. MAYBE SOMEDAY I'LL RETURN.

FOR NOW, I'M HAPPY HERE.



WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT LIFE AWAY FROM HOME?

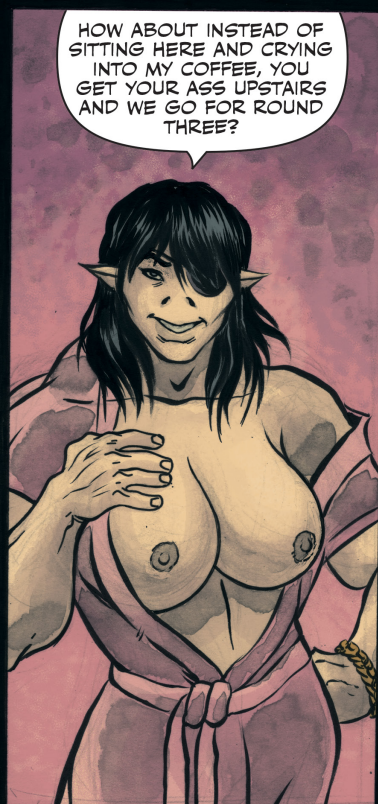
THE THINGS ONE CAN LEARN ABOUT THEMSELVES WHEN THEY LET GO OF THE PAST.

IT'S BEEN... INTERESTING.

WHAT DO YOU MISS?



KIRUK.

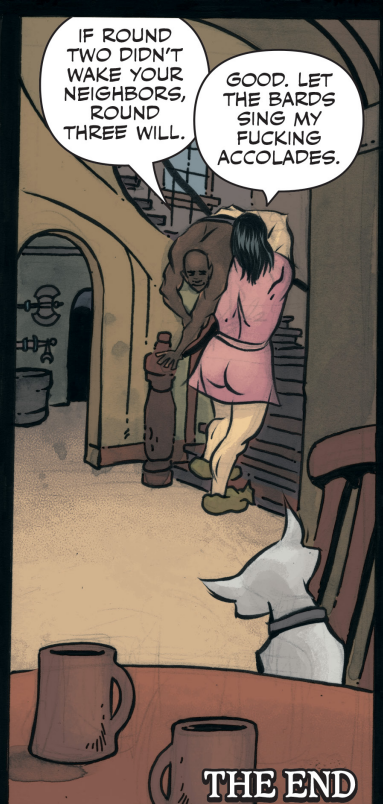


HOW ABOUT INSTEAD OF SITTING HERE AND CRYING INTO MY COFFEE, YOU GET YOUR ASS UPSTAIRS AND WE GO FOR ROUND THREE?



YOU WORE ME OUT THIS MORNING, BRAGA!

WHY DO YOU THINK WE STOPPED FOR COFFEE?



IF ROUND TWO DIDN'T WAKE YOUR NEIGHBORS, ROUND THREE WILL.

GOOD. LET THE BARDS SING MY FUCKING ACCOLADES.

THE END

THIS
FEBRUARY

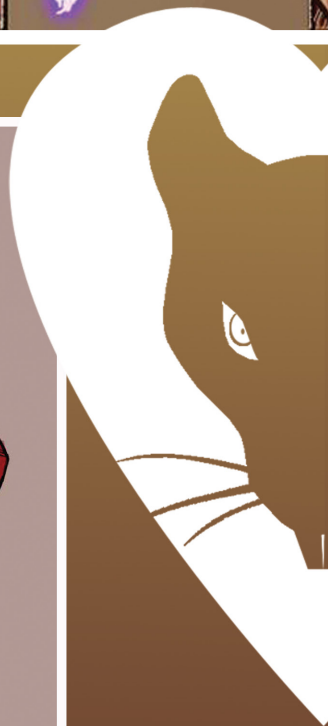
RAT QUEENS™

WELCOMES
NEW ARTIST...



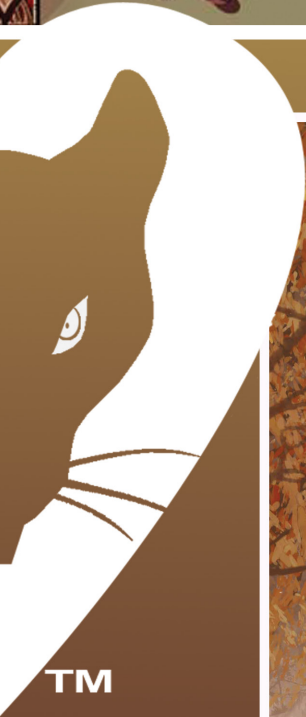
STJEPAN SEJIC

(WITCHBLADE,
DEATH VIGIL)



ON SALE FEBRUARY 2015

BEGINNING WITH ISSUE #9



TM



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“Sinergy turns sex into a supernatural resource.” USA Today



**SINERGY #3
JANUARY**

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COMING THIS FEBRUARY

THE
EMPTY

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NEXT MONTH: Welcome new regular artist
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Cover by **JENNY FRISON!**

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