

A **SCREAM!** ONE-SHOT SPECIAL!

BLACK BETH™

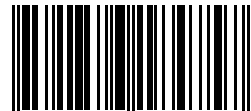
AND THE DEVILS OF AL-KADESH

STORY BY
ALEC WORLEY

ART BY
DANI



9 781786 184757



ONE-SHOT SPECIAL / £4.99
23rd JUNE - 18th AUGUST **REBELLION**

Dani
2020

‘A NAME BORN OF THE BLACK RAGE THAT FILLED HER HEART!’

THE HISTORY OF BLACK BETH

Black Beth first appeared in the **1988 *Scream!* Holiday Special** and stood out for several reasons. It was much longer than the other strips in the special, running at twenty-three pages. Tonally it was far more mature than what was usually found in ***Scream!***, which was a horror comic aimed at the pre-teen audience, and it was very much part of the fantasy genre, further distancing itself from the other content. Most notably, the lead character was a female – a rarity in British boys’ comics at the time.

Featuring the amazing art of Spanish illustrator Blas Gallego, **Black Beth** was originally illustrated in the mid-seventies and was intended to be published in a new IPC comic, to be titled...***Scream***. That comic was never published and so the art was tucked away for years, until somebody in the ***Scream!*** editorial team, looking for cheap filler for the Holiday Special, stumbled upon this hidden gem of a story. Unfortunately due to the lack of credits the writer of that original story still remains a mystery to this day.

That original *Black Beth* tale resonated with a young Alec Worley so much, that when Rebellion resurrected ***Scream!*** as an annual one-shot, he was quick to pitch a revival of the character. Teamed with the great DaNi on art duties, the first strip which ran in the ***Scream* and *Misty* 2018 Special**, proved to be very popular. That led to a further tale in last year’s ***Misty & Scream* 2020 Special**, *The Witch Tree*. Having proved to be a popular strip with readers once again, we are now proud to present **Black Beth and the Devils of Al-Kadesh** – her most epic and adventurous tale so far!



BLACK BETH AND THE DEVILS OF AL-KADESH

Story by Alec Worley
Art by DaNi
Letters by Simon Bowland



BLACK BETH: FAIRY TALES

Story by Alec Worley
Art by Andrea Bulgarelli
Letters by SG



DEATH-MAN: WHEN THE MAN COMES TO TOWN

Story by Doug Graves
Art by Vincenzo Riccardi
Letters by SG



Cover by Andrea Bulgarelli
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REBELLION
SCREAM!

THE SUN RAGES OVER
AL-KADESH, OVER THAT
CITY OF BEGGARS AND
BLADE-RATS KNOWN AS
"HELL'S CAULDRON"...

WHERE
ARE THEY?

THE GUARD
SEEK A RAVEN-
HAired GIRL AND
A SIGHTLESS
BOY!

AND ANY
WHO WITHHOLD
THEM SHALL BE
HANGED IN THEIR
STEAD!



HERE'S
ONE OF
THEM, MY
LORD!

UNHAND
ME, DOLT!

UGHN!



AYE!
HERE STANDS
**BLACK
BETH!**

AND SHE
HAS GROWN
TIRED OF
RUNNING!



THEN YOU
SHALL DIE
WHERE YOU
STAND,
GIRL!

FOR THE CRIME
OF **HERESY**, OF
SPEAKING THAT
NAME WHICH IS
FORBIDDEN
HERE!

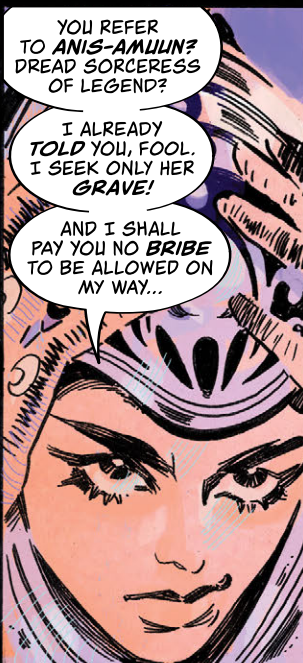


YOU REFER
TO **ANIS-AMULUN?**
DREAD SORCERESS
OF LEGEND?

I ALREADY
TOLD YOU, FOOL.
I SEEK ONLY HER
GRAVE!

AND I SHALL
PAY YOU NO **BRIBE**
TO BE ALLOWED ON
MY WAY...

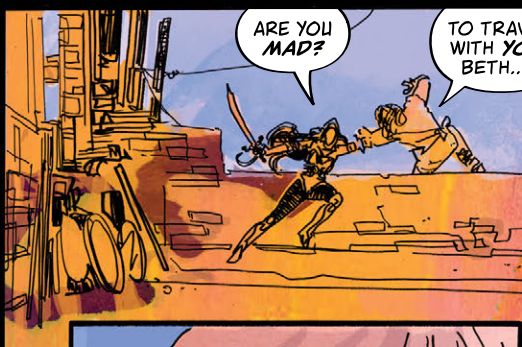
DID I NOT MAKE
THAT **CLEAR**
WHEN I BROKE
YOUR PRETTY
NOSE?

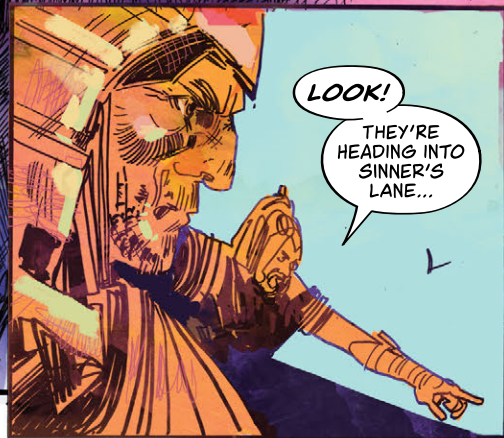


BLACK BETH™

AND THE DEVILS
OF AL-KADESH

SCRIPT: Alec Worley ART: DaNi LETTERS: Simon Bowland







"...AND
FIND THOSE
OUTSIDERS!"

AND WHO
MIGHT *YOU* BE,
MAGUS?

I AM
SEER ESTEVAN,
MY LADY.

AND WE
SHARE A COMMON
CONCERN...

BETH, WE'RE BEING
HUNTED BY EVERY GUARD
IN THIS *CITY*. AND EVERY
COIN-HUNGRY CUTPURSE
WILL BE OUT TO *HELP*
THEM.

WE'LL NEED AN
ALLY IF WE'RE TO
GET OUT OF HERE
WITH OUR NECKS
UNSTRETCHED!

YOU
SEEK *ANIS-AMULIN*...

MAY THE
HELLS DEVOUR
HER BLACK
SOUL.

I CAN TAKE
YOU TO HER FINAL
RESTING PLACE,
BUT WE MUST
HURRY!



WHY THE
RUSH?

SHE'S
A HUNDRED
YEARS DEAD. I
DON'T BELIEVE
SHE'S *GOING*
ANYWHERE...



ON THE
CONTRARY,
MY LADY...



DOWN
HERE, MY
FRIENDS.

THE
TEMPLARS OF
THE CLEANSING
DAWN? I HAVE
NOT HEARD OF
YOU.

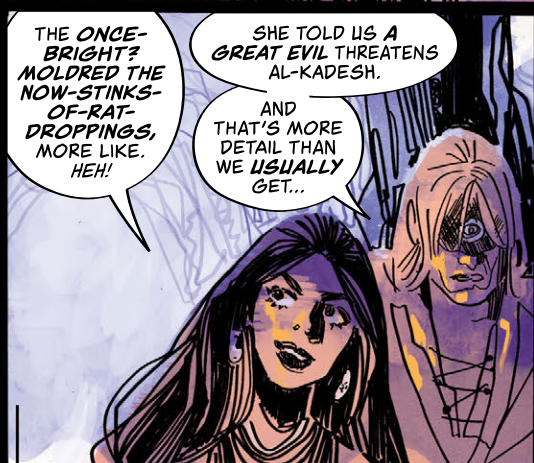


FEW HAVE.
IN *SECRECY*
WE PROTECT
MANKIND FROM
THE PREDATIONS
OF EVIL.

I HEAR YOU
ARE IN LEAGUE WITH
THE *ONCE-BRIGHT--*
WITH *MOLDRED*
THE *CINDER-*
WITCH...



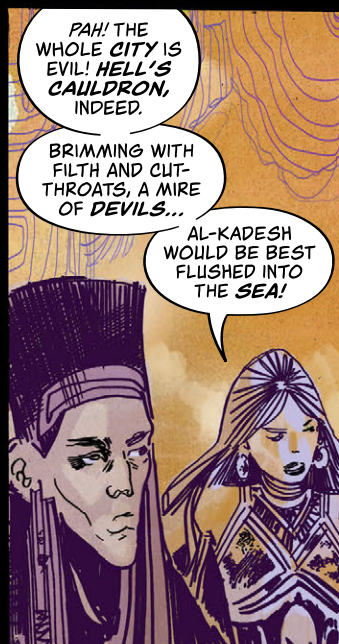
"...WAS IT *SHE*
WHO DIRECTED
YOU HERE...?"



THE *ONCE-*
BRIGHT?
MOLDRED THE
NOW-STINKS-
OF-RAT-
DROPPINGS,
MORE LIKE.
HEH!

SHE TOLD US A
GREAT EVIL THREATENS
AL-KADESH.

AND
THAT'S MORE
DETAIL THAN
WE *USUALLY*
GET...



PAH! THE
WHOLE CITY IS
EVIL! *HELL'S*
CAULDRON,
INDEED.

BRIMMING WITH
FILTH AND CUT-
THROATS, A MIRE
OF *DEVILS...*

AL-KADESH
WOULD BE BEST
FLUSHED INTO
THE *SEA!*



IS
THAT *SO,*
BETH...?

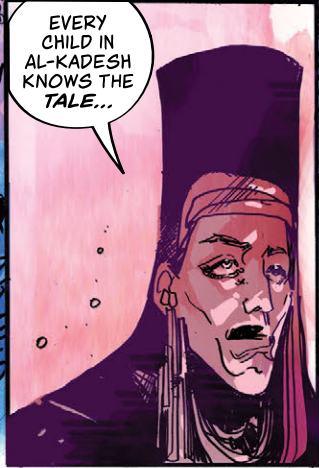


THEN
PERHAPS WE ARE
HERE TO SAVE
THE CITY FROM
YOU...?

WE'RE
HERE...



...ALMOST A CENTURY AGO AT THE MOUTH OF THIS CAVE, THE SORCESS ANIS-AMUUN WAS LAID TO REST...



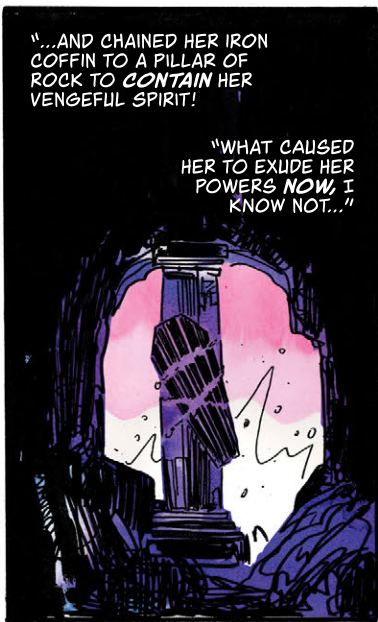
EVERY CHILD IN AL-KADESH KNOWS THE TALE...



"...OF HOW THEIR GRANDSIRS OVERPOWERED THE MONSTER..."

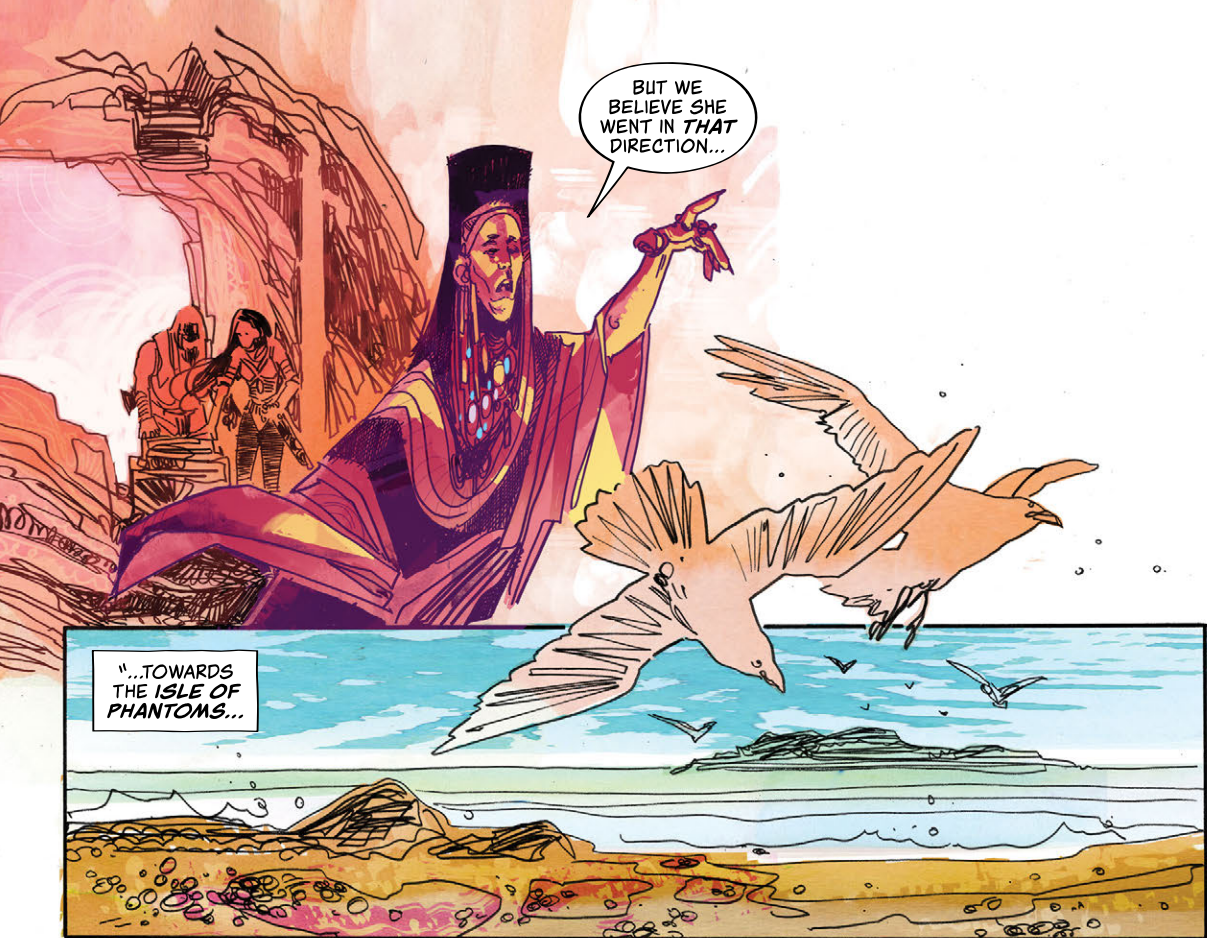


"...FEARING *MAGICK* WOULD PRESERVE HER BODY, THEY SEWED HER MOUTH SHUT WITH *SACRED CORD*, LEST SHE SPEAK ANOTHER EVIL WORD..."



"...AND CHAINED HER IRON COFFIN TO A PILLAR OF ROCK TO *CONTAIN* HER VENGEFUL SPIRIT!

"WHAT CAUSED HER TO EXUDE HER POWERS *NOW*, I KNOW NOT..."



BUT WE
BELIEVE SHE
WENT IN *THAT*
DIRECTION...

"...TOWARDS
THE ISLE OF
PHANTOMS..."



"...THERE STANDS THE
ELDRITCH TEMPLE WHERE
SHE ONCE STOOD IN
WORSHIP, WHERE DJINNS
OF THE EARTH WHISPER
FORGOTTEN SPELLS
INTO WILLING EARS..."

"...SPELLS POWERFUL
ENOUGH TO RAIN
DESTRUCTION UPON AN
ENTIRE CITY!"



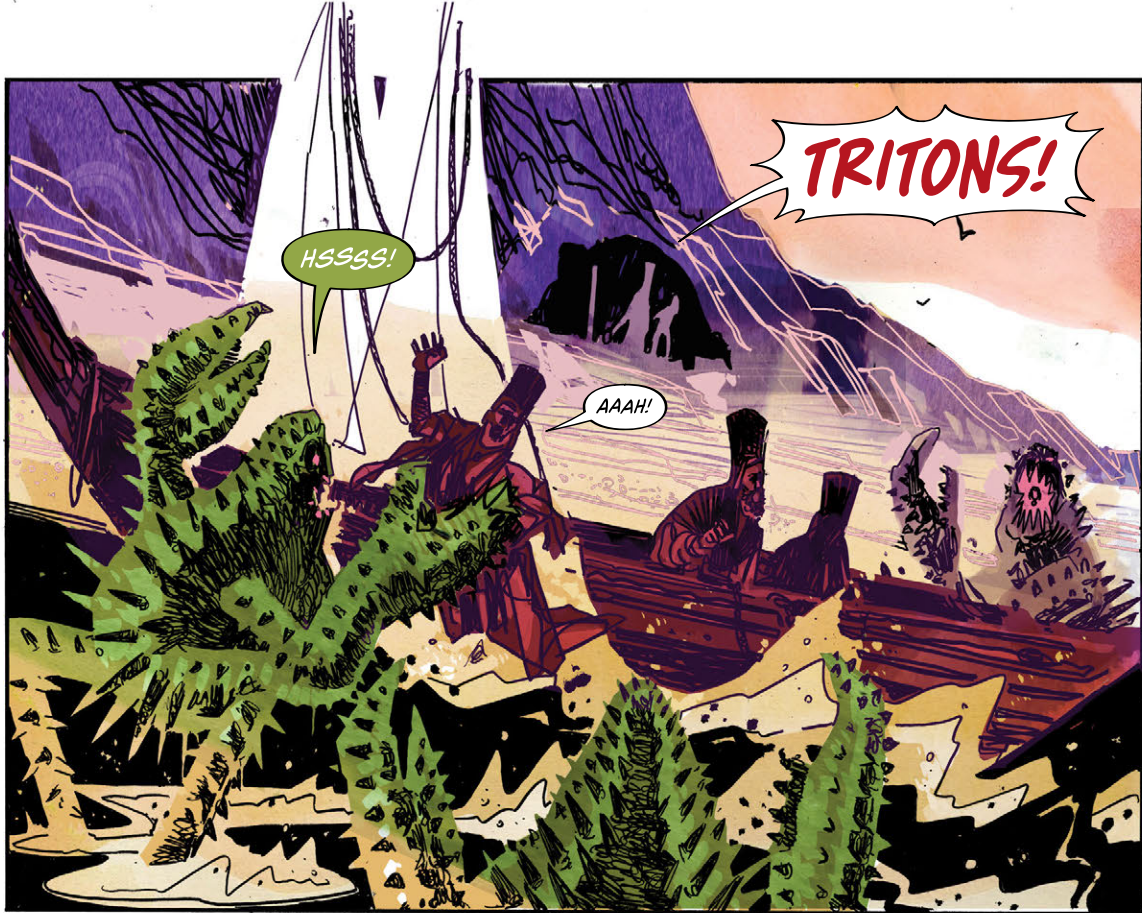
"AS WE SPEAK,
ANIS-AMUUN
WALKS BENEATH
THE WAVES!"

"WE MUST *STOP* HER FROM
REACHING THE TEMPLE BEFORE SHE
RETRIEVES THAT *SPELL* AND WREAKS
HER REVENGE UPON AL-KADESH!"

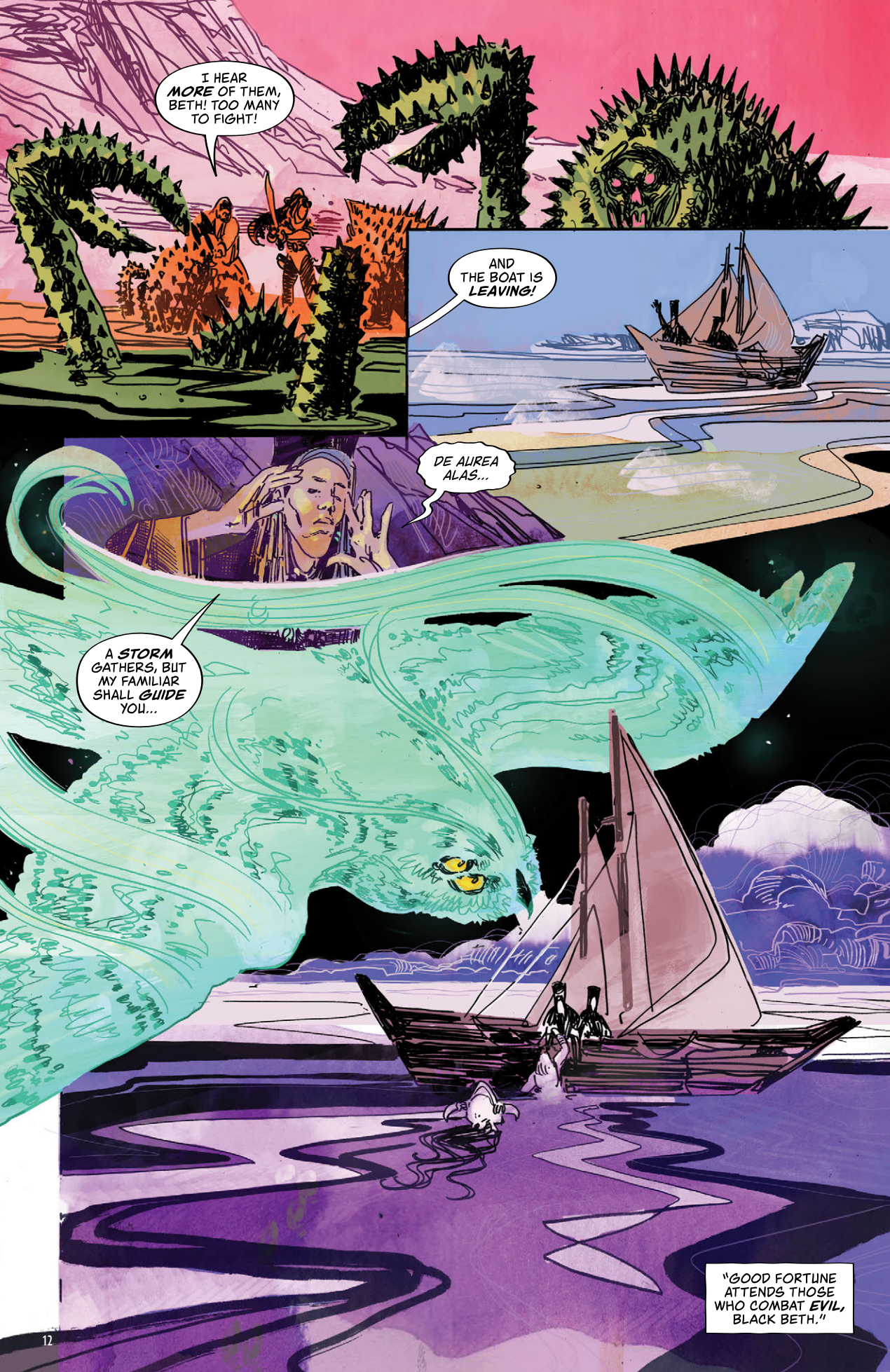


WE HAVE A *BOAT*,
BUT WE NEED A
STRONG *SWORD-
ARM*.

BLACK
BETH,
WILL
YOU *HELP*
US?







I HEAR
MORE OF THEM,
BETH! TOO MANY
TO FIGHT!

AND
THE BOAT IS
LEAVING!

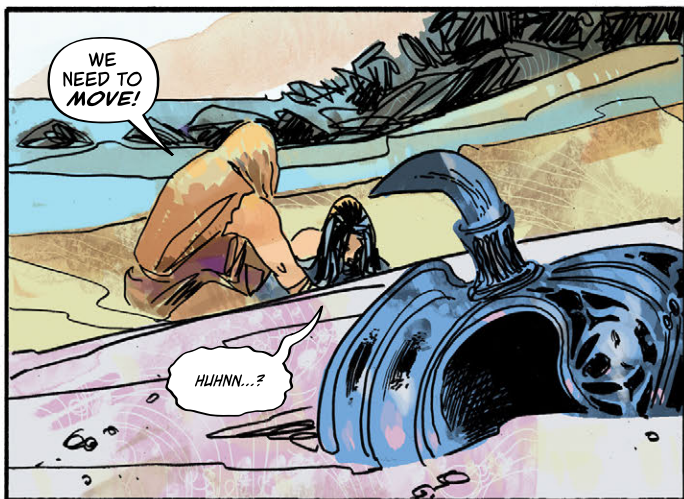
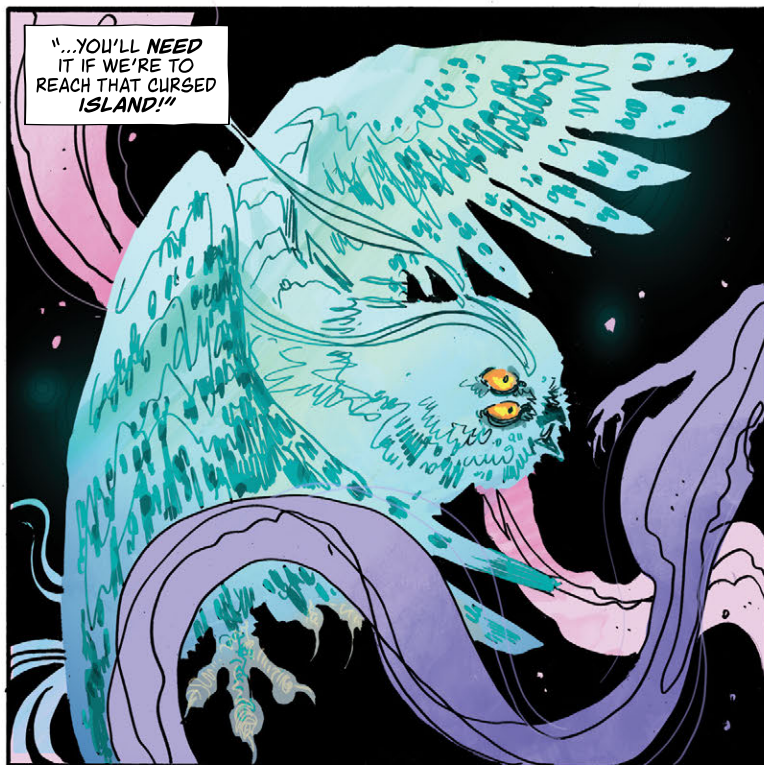
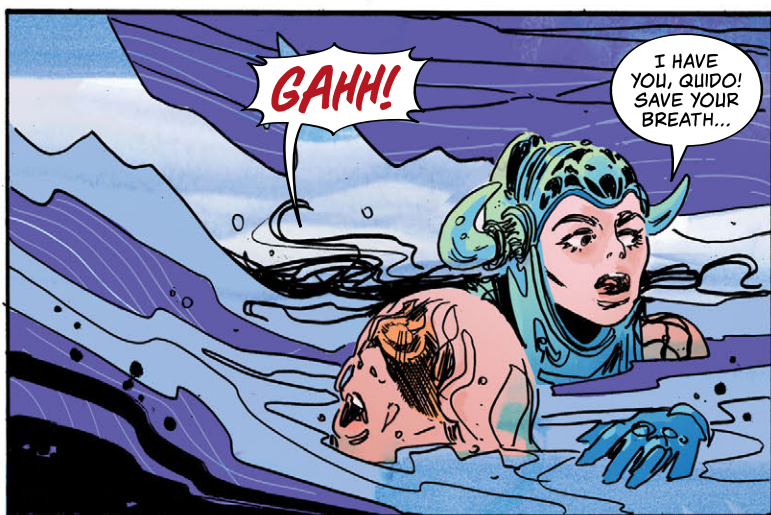
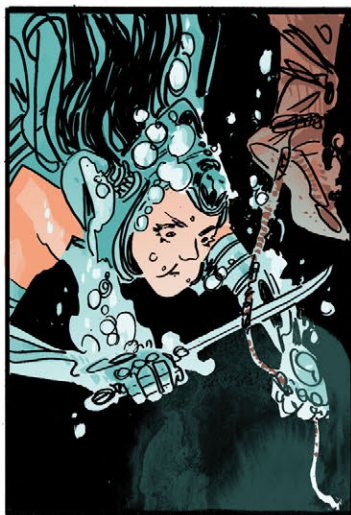
DE ALREA
ALAS...

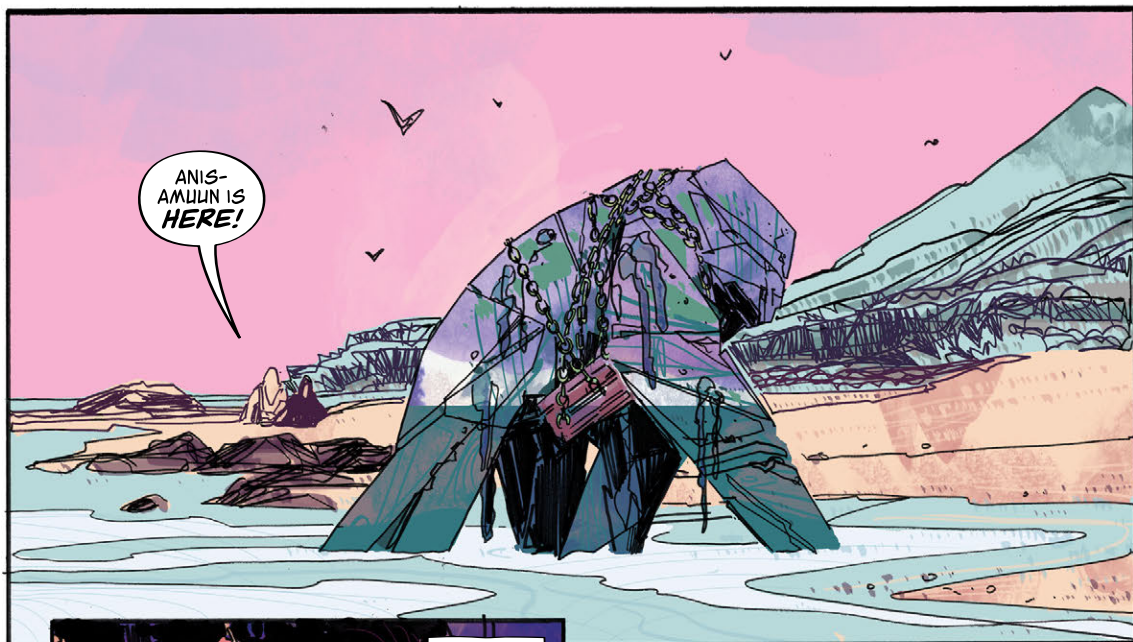
A STORM
GATHERS, BUT
MY FAMILIAR
SHALL GUIDE
YOU...

"GOOD FORTUNE
ATTENDS THOSE
WHO COMBAT EVIL,
BLACK BETH."

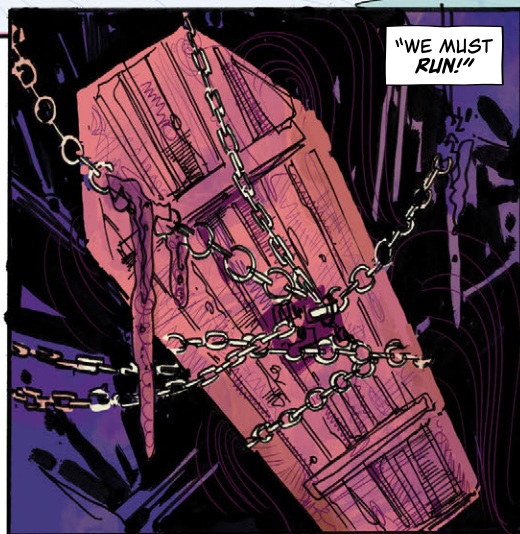




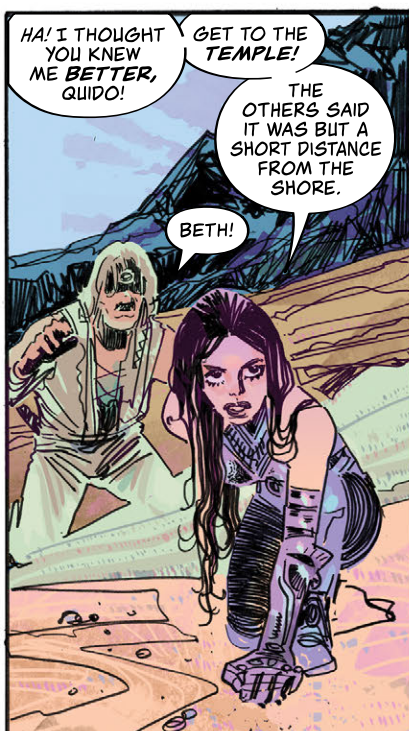




ANIS-
AMULIN IS
HERE!



"WE MUST
RUN!!"



HA! I THOUGHT
YOU KNEW
ME **BETTER**,
QUIDO!

GET TO THE
TEMPLE!

THE
OTHERS SAID
IT WAS BUT A
SHORT DISTANCE
FROM THE
SHORE.

BETH!



I'LL NOT
HAVE YOUR
STUBBORN-
NESS.

**NOW!
COME!**

QUIDO, LET
ME **DELAY** IT
WHILE YOU FIND
THAT **SPELL...**

WHATEVER
FORM IT TAKES,
YOU MUST **FIND** IT
AND **DESTROY**
IT!

WE'RE
ON OUR **OWN**
NOW! AND THERE
ARE LIVES AT
STAKE...

LIVES
WORTHIER
THAN MY
OWN.

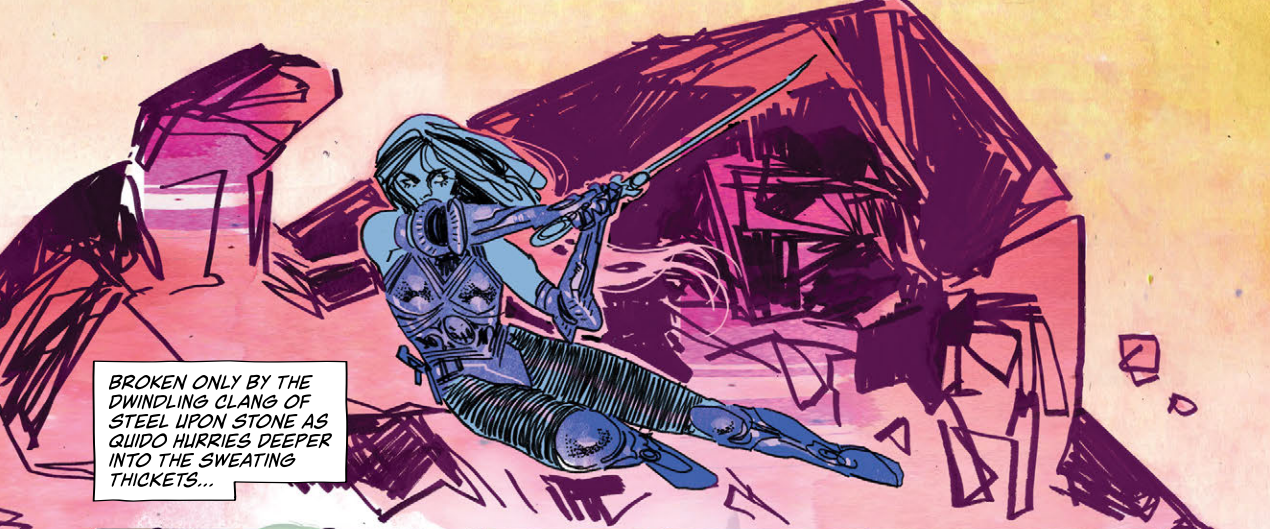
NOW
GO!

DAMN
YOU, BETH!

HRNNN...

BETH!!!

THE CRIES OF
BIRDS AND THE
CLASH OF LEAVES
ENVELOP HIM...

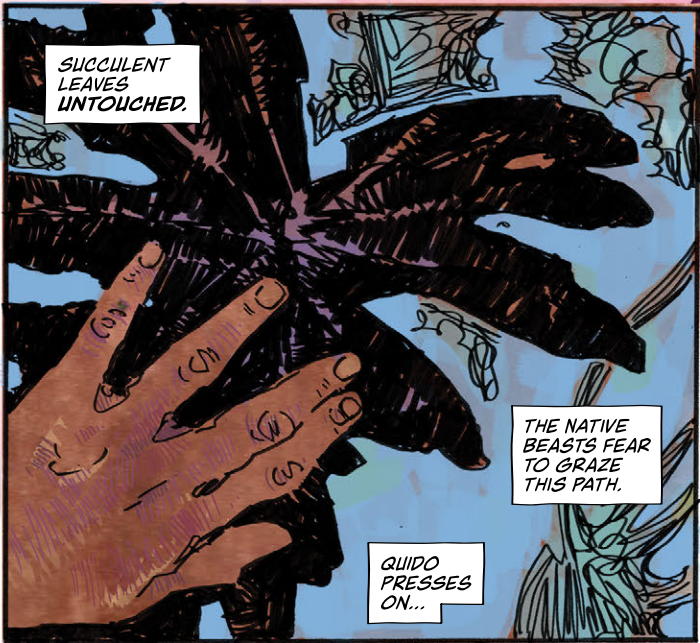


BROKEN ONLY BY THE
DWINDLING CLANG OF
STEEL UPON STONE AS
QUIDO HURRIES DEEPER
INTO THE SWEATING
THICKETS...



SHE WILL DIE IF HE
FAILS HERE. PERHAPS
SHE WILL DIE IF HE
SUCCEEDS...

HE TRIES TO IGNORE
HIS HAMMERING HEART,
TO ABSORB HIMSELF
IN THE SURROUNDING
JUNGLE...



SUCCULENT
LEAVES
UNTOUCHED.

THE NATIVE
BEASTS FEAR
TO GRAZE
THIS PATH.

QUIDO
PRESSES
ON...



HE FEELS FLAT
STONE UNDERFOOT.
A FLOOR LAID
AEONS PAST...



A SUDDEN,
RANCID BREEZE
WARMS HIS
FACE...



ALMOST AS IF
SOMETHING WERE
BREATHING
UPON HIM...

HE STEPS BACK,
HIS OWN BREATH
BARELY A
WHISPER.

AND KNOWS
STRAIGHT AWAY THAT
HE HAS FOUND WHAT
HE'S LOOKING FOR...

zzzzzz!

AN ALTAR! A
SACRED TABLE
WHERE OFFERINGS
ARE MADE AND
GIFTS RECEIVED...

HIS FINGERS
READ ALIEN
NUMERALS
CARVED INTO
THE ROCK...

AND HEARS
A GHOSTLY
WHISPER
ANSWER HIS
SUMMONS!

HUH?

SHUKK!!

THE BREATH OF
THE EARTH--A LIVING
SPELL--GROPE'S HIS
INSIDES, SEIZING
CONTROL!

HE GOES TO
SCREAM...





I...I SWORE
AN OATH,
MONSTER...

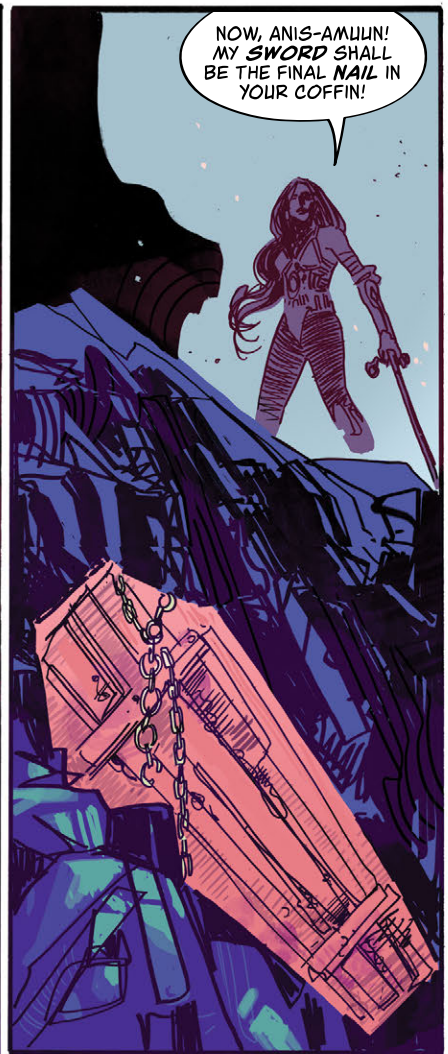
TO
COMBAT EVIL
IN ALL ITS VILE
FORMS!



I'LL BREAK
YOU YET--
UHN!



PIECE BY
PIECE, IF I
MUST!



NOW, ANIS-AMUUN!
MY SWORD SHALL
BE THE FINAL NAIL
IN YOUR COFFIN!



"THE TEMPLARS
OF THE CLEANSING
DAWN!"

"CRUSADING ZEALOTS
OBSESSED WITH
PURITY OF SOUL. FOR
THEM, **COMMON**
POVERTY IS THE
WELLSPRING OF ALL
SIN."

"FOR THEM, NO CRIME
IS FORGIVABLE, NO
IGNORANCE MAY BE
ENLIGHTENED."

"AND WHAT CITY
COULD BE **MORE**
BEYOND REDEMPTION
THAN HELL'S
CAULDRON?"

"THE VERY CITY I--
ANIS-AMUN--SEEK
TO PROTECT!"

WHAT? YOU
WOULD PROTECT
THOSE WHO
MURDERED
YOU?

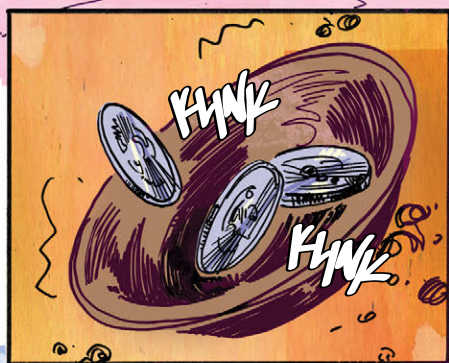
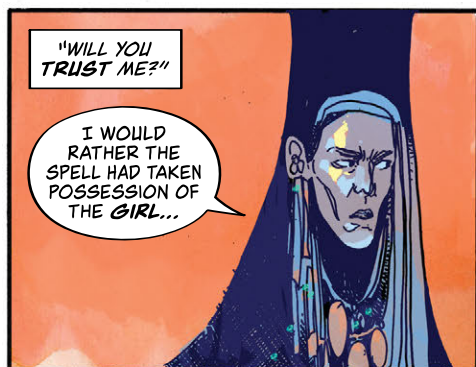
THOSE WHO
MADE AN END OF
ME ARE LONG
DEAD!

AND NOT EVERY
WRONGED SOUL
CRAVES REVENGE,
BLACK BETH!

SOME HAVE
HAD TIME ENOUGH TO
LEARN FORGIVENESS,
TO UNDERSTAND THAT
THIS WORLD CAN
MAKE DEVILS OF
US ALL!

THEY HAVE
YOUR FRIEND, BLACK
BETH. AND HE CARRIES
THE **SPELL** THAT WILL
DESTROY THE
CITY!

WILL YOU
BRING ME TO THE
TEMPLE BEFORE
MY POWER FADES
ENTIRELY...?



EARTHQUAKE!

RRROOOOONNN

AAAAH!

RRYHOOM

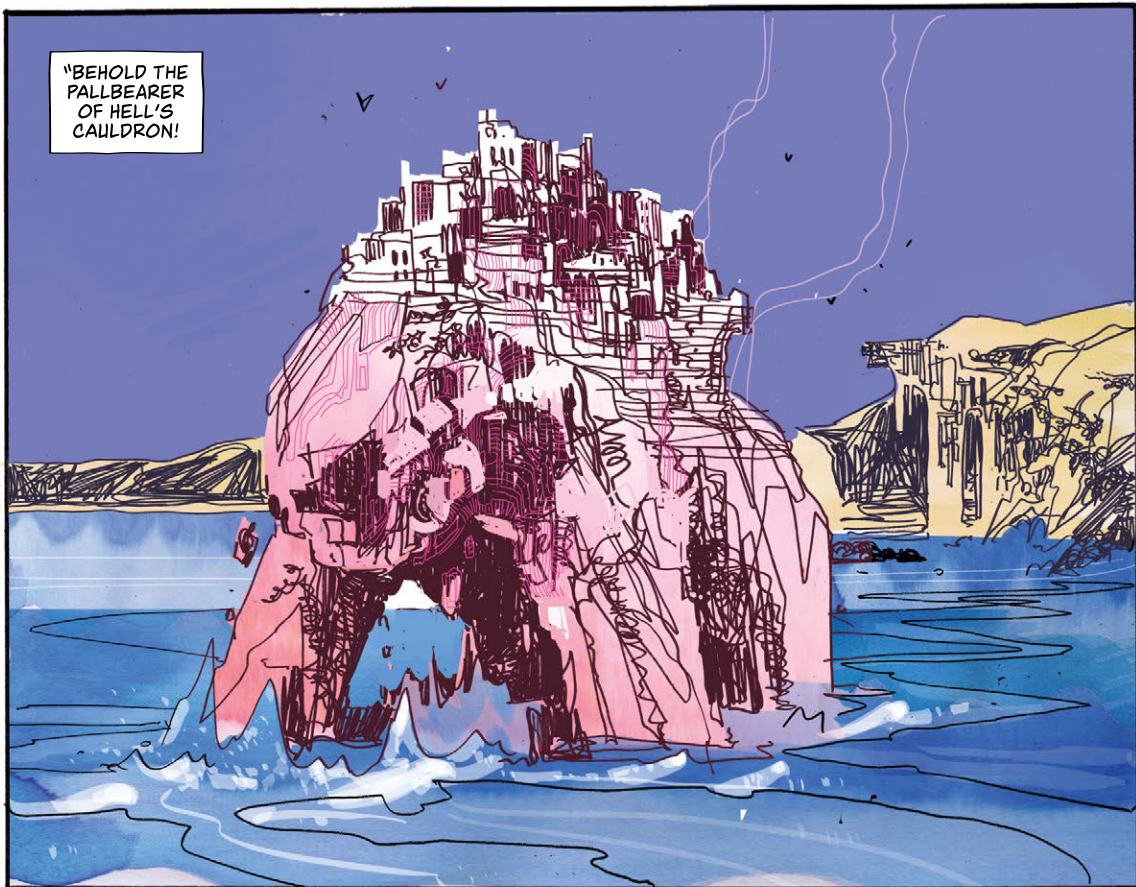
OH, BROTHERS. IS THERE ANY MUSIC SWEETER THAN THE WAILS OF THE IMPURE?

HAHA!

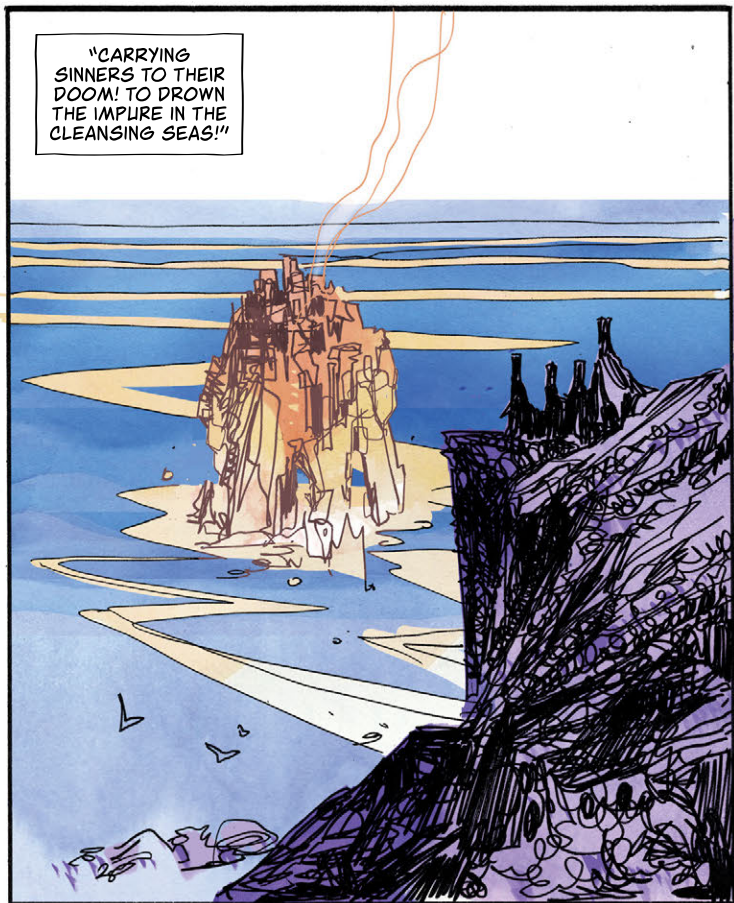
VOOM

"IT'S MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN I IMAGINED..."

"BEHOLD THE
PALLBEARER
OF HELL'S
CAULDRON!



"CARRYING
SINNERS TO THEIR
DOOM! TO DROWN
THE IMPURE IN THE
CLEANSING SEAS!"



BEAUTIFUL!

SEER
ESTEVAN!
LOOK!





"IT'S HER!"

"IT'S
BLACK
BETH!"

I SEE
THEM, ANIS...
THEY HAVE
QUIDO!

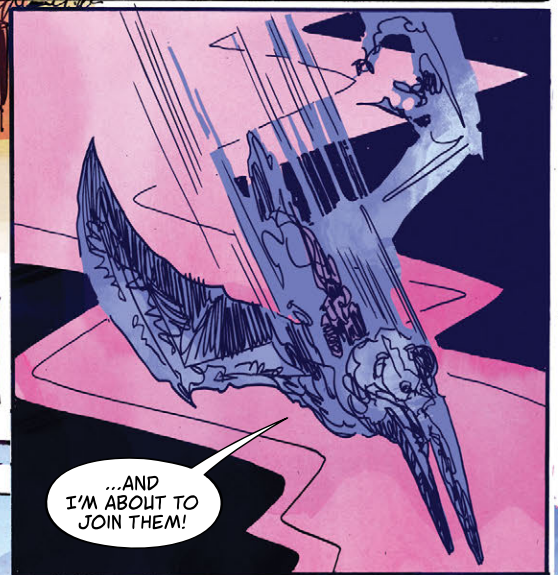
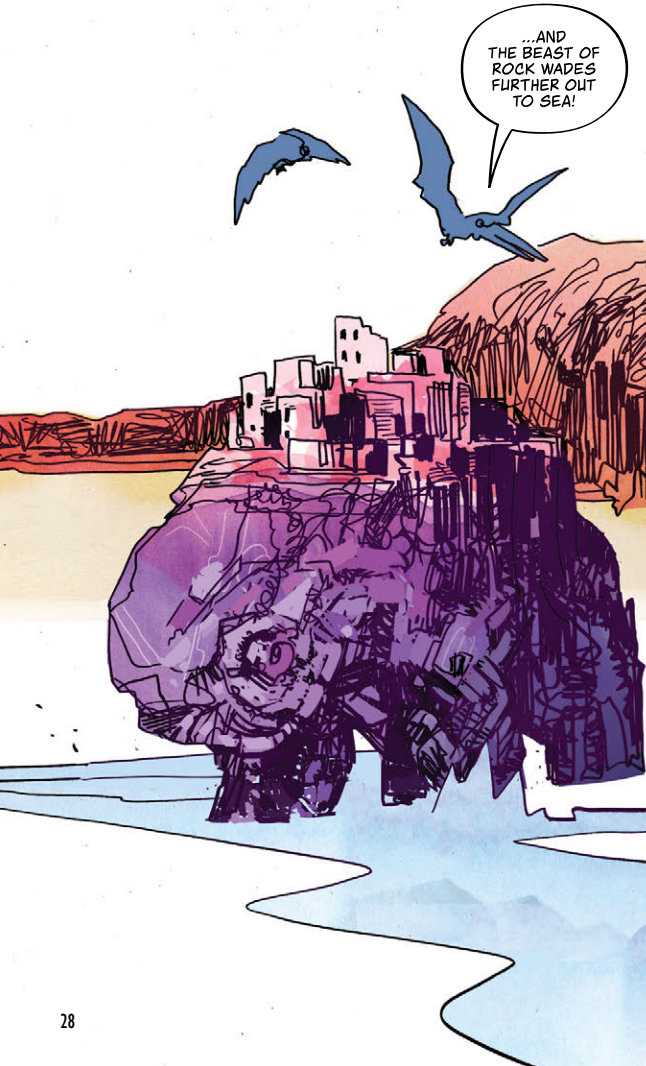
SAVE
THE CITY,
BETH...



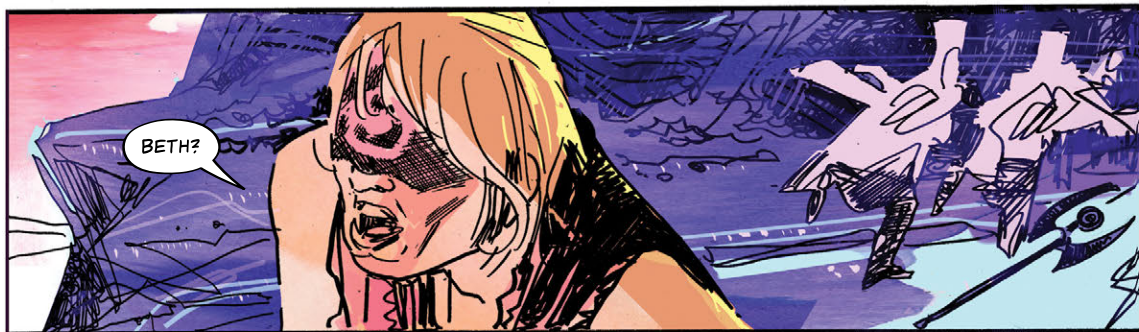
...AND
HURRY!

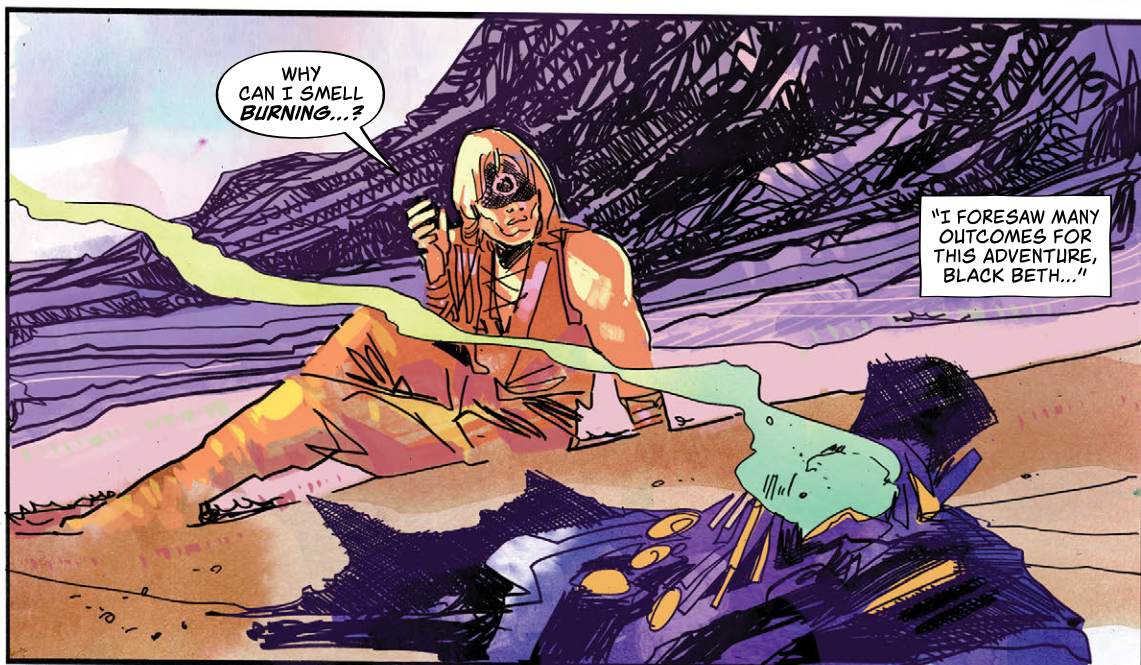
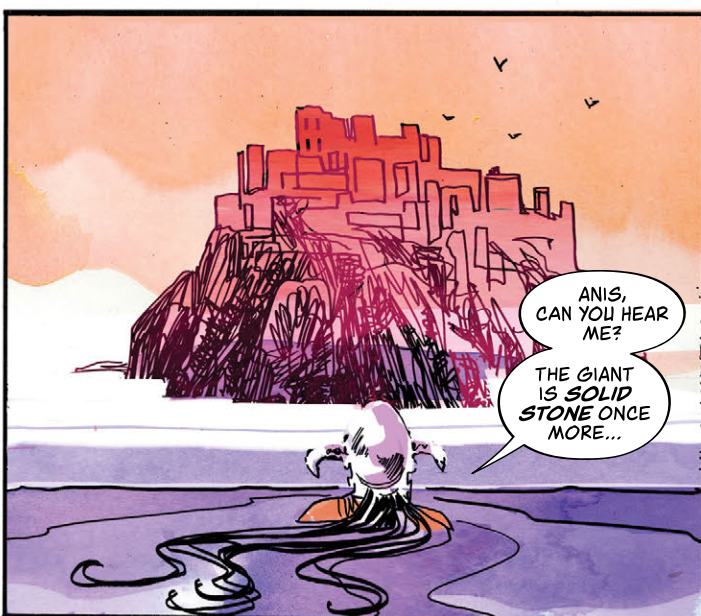


I CANNOT CHANNEL
THE ENERGIES OF
THIS PLACE FOR MUCH
LONGER...











...BUT
NOT THIS
ONE.

PERHAPS
"MOLDRED THE
NOW-STINKS-OF-RAT-
DROPPINGS" GROWS
BAFFLED IN HER OLD
AGE, EH?

HMPH!

"THE SPIRITS OF THE SMOKE
SPEAK OF **BETTER** TIMES IN
HELL'S CAULDRON, WHERE LIVES
WERE LOST BENEATH TOPPLED
TOWERS, LORD AND BEGGAR
BROKEN TOGETHER.

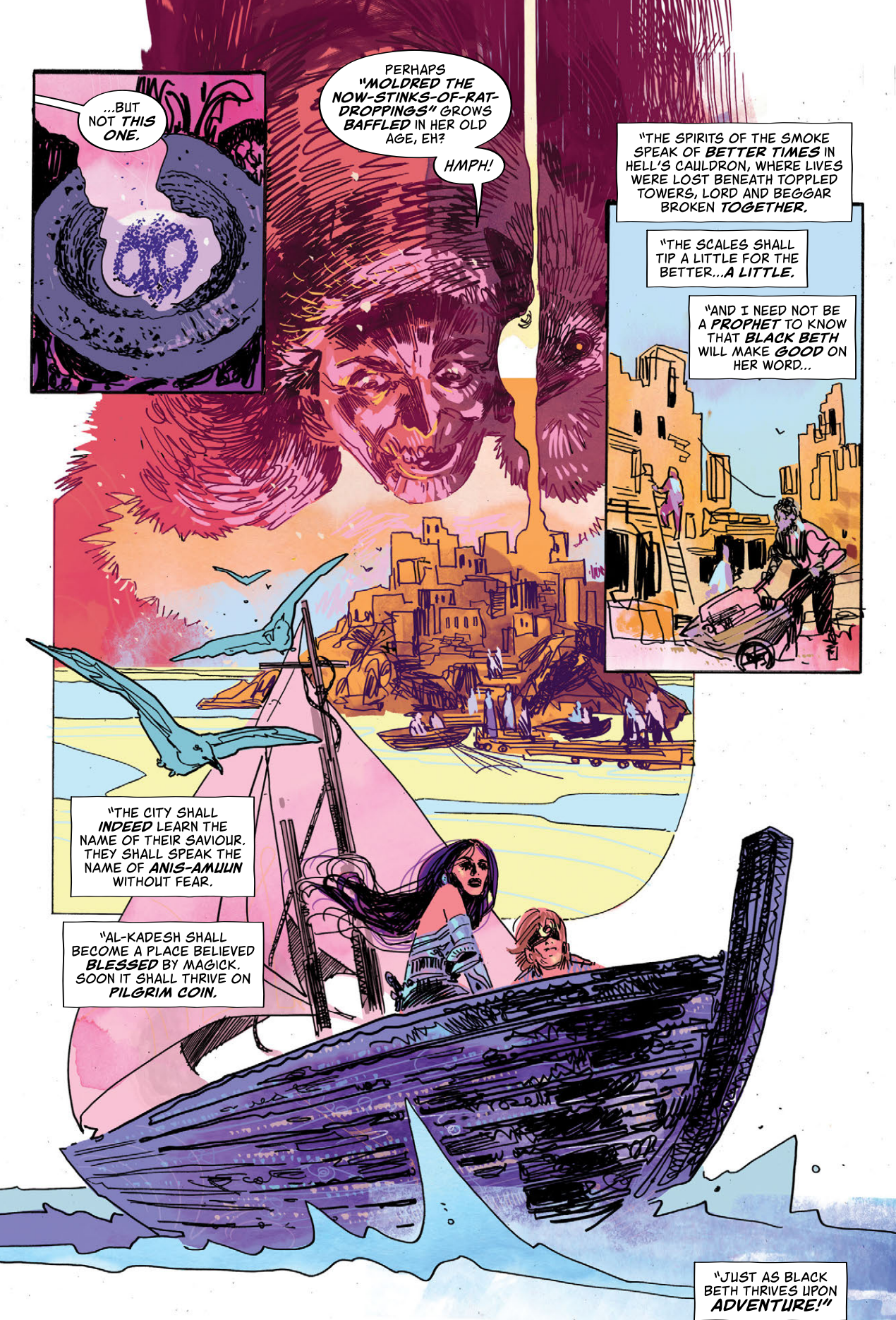
"THE SCALES SHALL
TIP A LITTLE FOR THE
BETTER...A LITTLE.

"AND I NEED NOT BE
A **PROPHET** TO KNOW
THAT **BLACK BETH**
WILL MAKE **GOOD** ON
HER WORD...



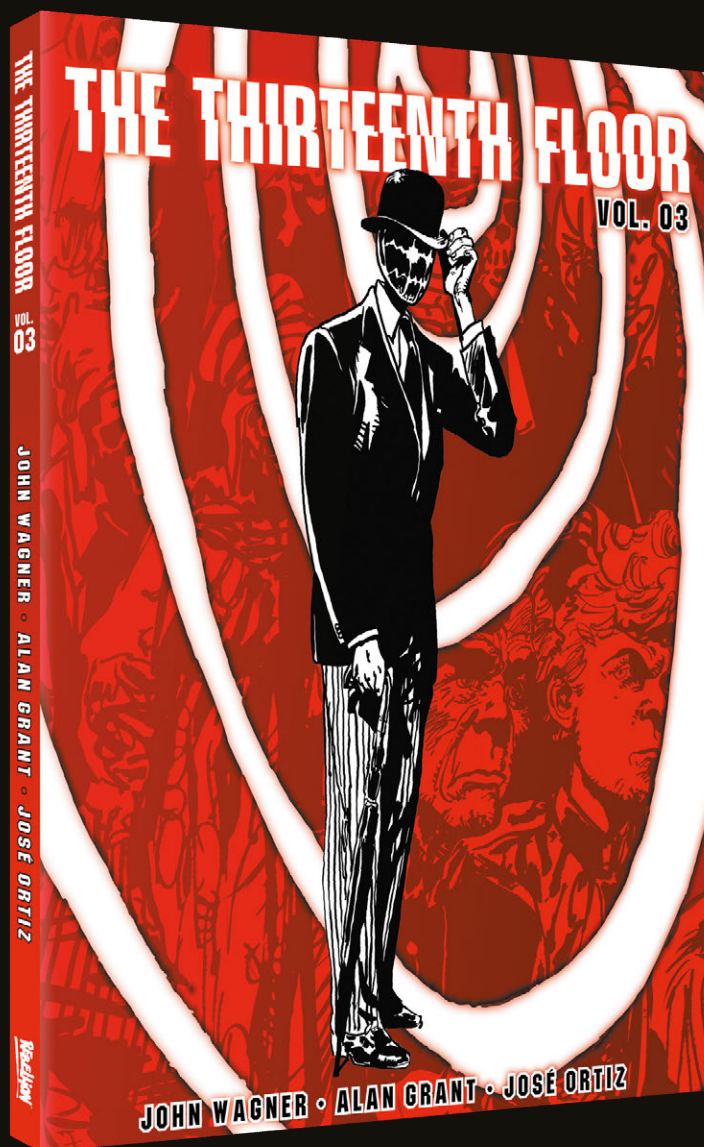
"THE CITY SHALL
INDEED LEARN THE
NAME OF THEIR SAVIOUR.
THEY SHALL SPEAK THE
NAME OF **ANIS-AMUN**
WITHOUT FEAR.

"AL-KADESH SHALL
BECOME A PLACE BELIEVED
BLESSED BY MAGICK.
SOON IT SHALL THRIVE ON
PILGRIM COIN.



"JUST AS **BLACK
BETH** THRIVES UPON
ADVENTURE!"





THE THIRD AND FINAL CHAPTER

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR

VOLUME 3

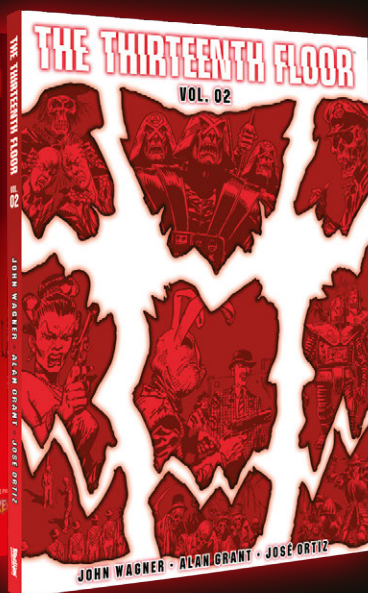
JOHN WAGNER

ALAN GRANT

JOSÉ ORTIZ

9781781089347

OUT 16TH
SEPTEMBER



THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR VOLUME 1

JOHN WAGNER / ALAN GRANT / JOSÉ ORTIZ

9781781086537

THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR VOLUME 2

JOHN WAGNER / ALAN GRANT / JOSÉ ORTIZ

9781781087725

FROM THE PAGES OF
SCREAM!

**TREASURY
OF BRITISH
COMICS**

SCRIPT: ALEC WORLEY
ART: ANDREA BULCARELLI
LETTERS: SC

BUT **BLACK BETH**
DROVE THEM BACK!

ALONE, SHE FOUGHT THEM ALL THE WAY
UP THE TOWER OF THE SHADEMANCER.

AS THE FATES
WOULD HAVE IT,
I WAS FAST ASLEEP
DURING THE FINAL
BATTLE.

ONE OF THOSE
CREATURES STRUCK
ME SENSELESS...

FAIRY TALES

FOR HAD SHE
NOT, THEN YOU AND
THE HOLY SISTERS
WHO CARE FOR YOU
WOULD NOT BE ALIVE
TO HEAR THIS
TALE.



SHE TOLD ME SHE HAD THE VILLAIN
CORNERED ATOP HIS LAIR, A MONSTER
TWISTED BY HIS OWN FOUL SORCERY...



YET NO MATCH FOR THE BLADE
OF OUR SWORD-MAIDEN...

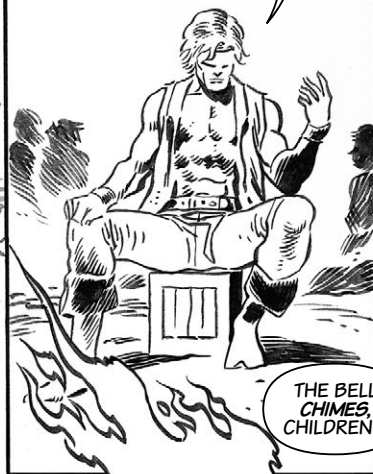


BESTED, BROKEN, HE
BEGGED FOR HIS LIFE...



AND BLACK BETH WAS
MOVED TO SPARE HIM!

FOR IN THAT MOMENT, SHE TOLD ME
SHE SAW THE FRIGHTENED BOY
THE MONSTER HAD ONCE BEEN,
ANOTHER FOUNDLING IN
NEED OF RESCUE...



THE BELL
CHIMES,
CHILDREN...

TO BED
WITH YOU ALL,
AND CONSIDER
WELL THE VALUE
OF MERCY...



QUIDO,
I...



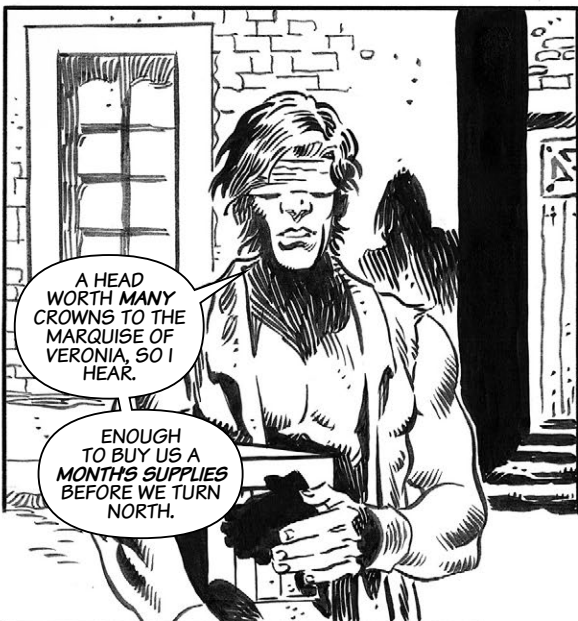
NO NEED FOR
CONFESSION, BETH.
I KNOW YOU DIDN'T TELL
ME THE TRUTH...



I AWOKE JUST BEFORE
I HEARD YOU KILL HIM!



THE HEAD LANDED NOT
FAR FROM WHERE I LAY.



A HEAD
WORTH MANY
CROWNS TO THE
MARQUISE OF
VERONIA, SO I
HEAR.

ENOUGH
TO BUY US A
MONTHS SUPPLIES
BEFORE WE TURN
NORTH.



DID YOU FEAR
I WOULD THINK **LESS**
OF YOU HAD YOU TOLD ME
THE **TRUTH**? HMPH! OUR
WORLD IS NO **FAIRY TALE**,
BLACK BETH.

YOU WALK
THE ROAD TO
DAMNATION...



AS DO ALL
WHO WALK
WITH YOU!

END





SCRIPT
DOUG
GRAVES

ART
VINCENTO
RICCARDI

LETTERS
SG

SPELLBINDER BOOKS

DEATH MAN

WHEN THE MAN
COMES TO TOWN





SHIT.

THE REAPER'S
LAPDOG. HOW
LONG HAS IT
BEEN SINCE...?

APRIL.
1912.

OH YES. ON
THE PASSENGER
LINER.

I GOT
TERRIBLY WET
THAT NIGHT
THANKS TO
YOU.

MY MASTER HAS
BEEN WAITING FOR
YOU FOR A LONG
TIME, MERLIN.

NOBODY
EVADES DEATH
FOREVER.

REALLY?

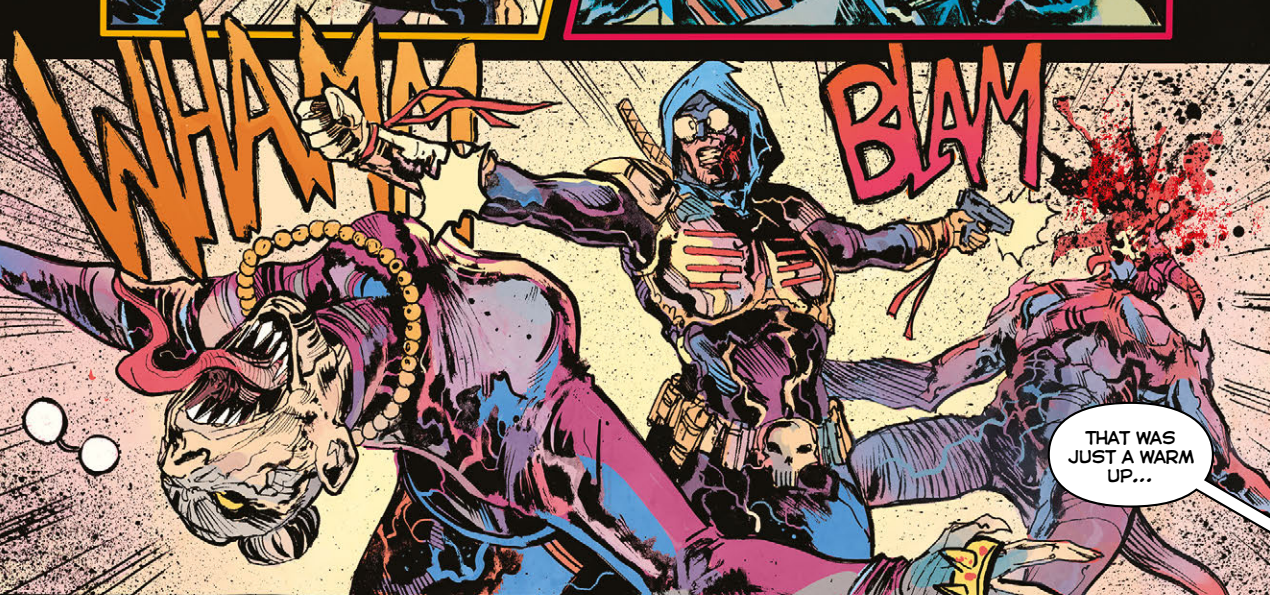
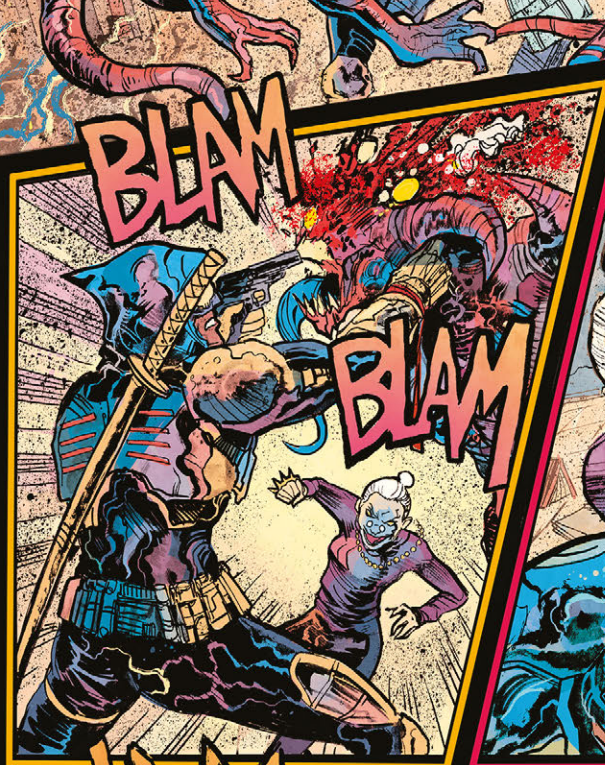
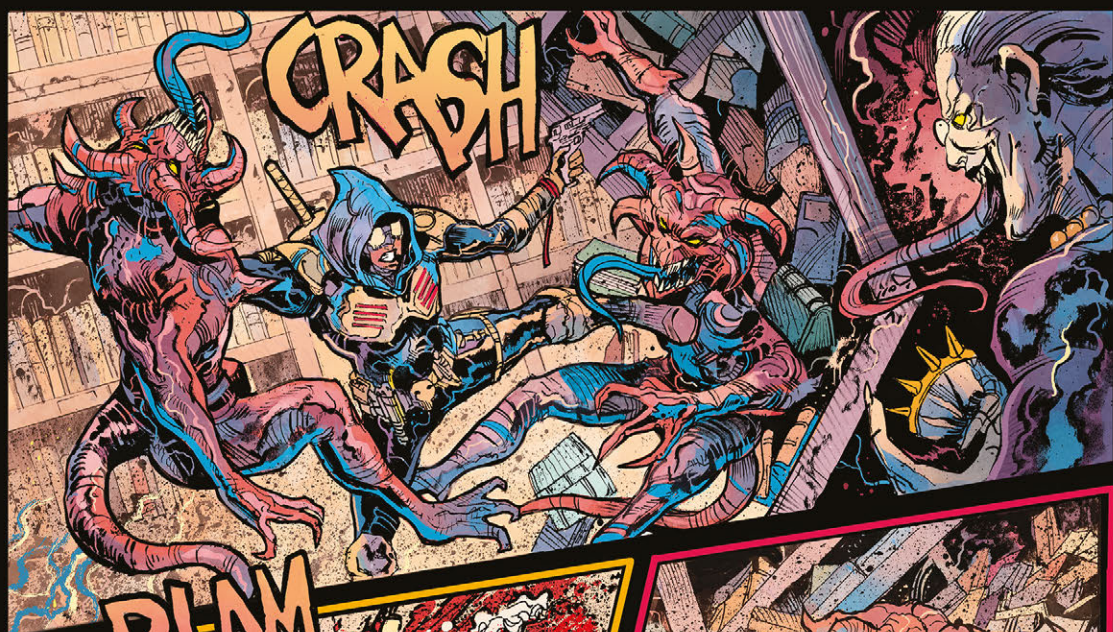
MS.
NEEDLEMEYER!

HUH?

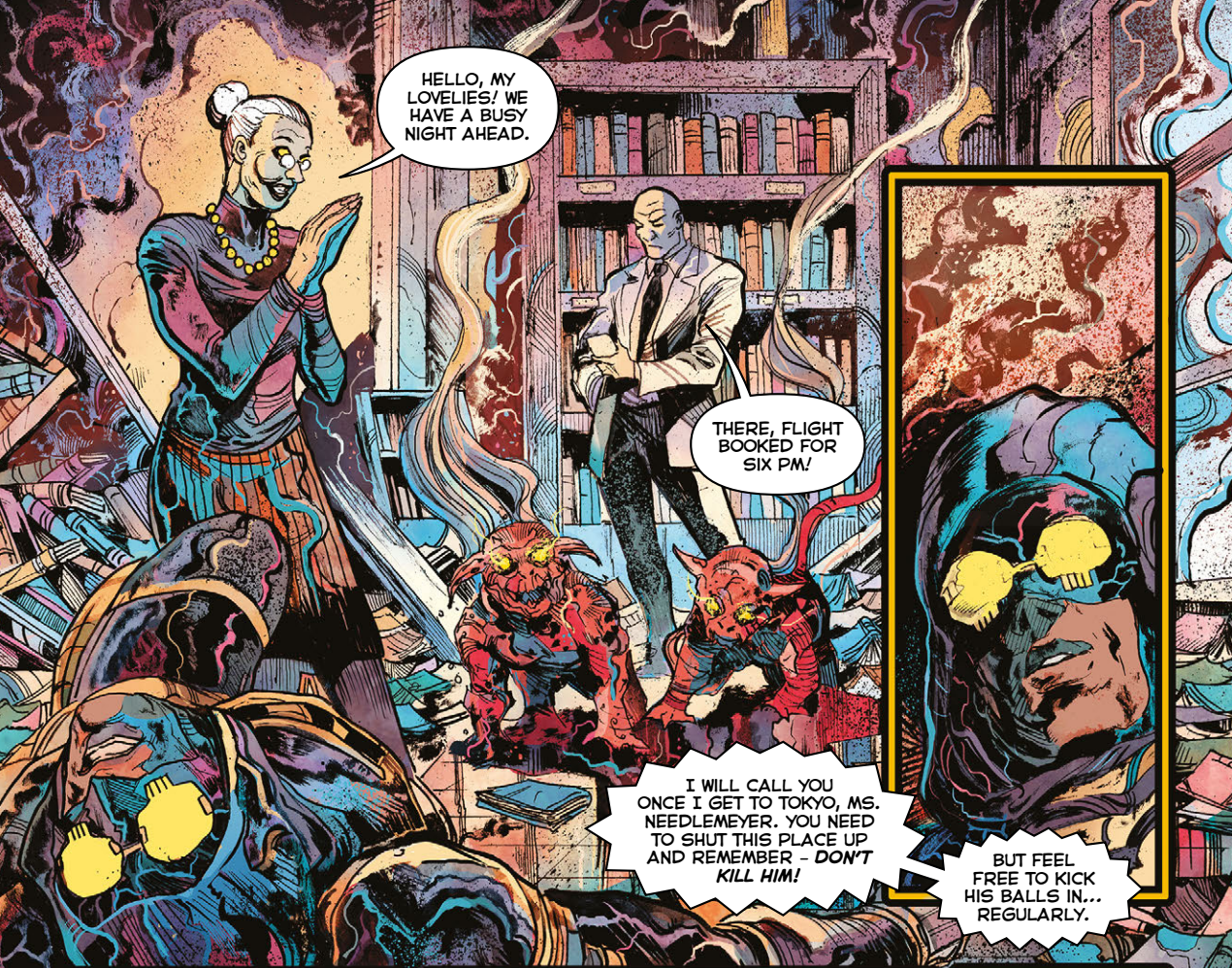


EVISCERATE
HIM
BOYS!

RUURRRRGGGH!







HELLO, MY
LOVELIES! WE
HAVE A BUSY
NIGHT AHEAD.

THERE, FLIGHT
BOOKED FOR
SIX PM!

I WILL CALL YOU
ONCE I GET TO TOKYO, MS.
NEEDLEMEYER. YOU NEED
TO SHUT THIS PLACE UP
AND REMEMBER - **DON'T
KILL HIM!**

BUT FEEL
FREE TO KICK
HIS BALLS IN...
REGULARLY.



SHAME.
I LIKED IT
HERE.



ARE YOU HUNGRY,
MY DARLINGS?
THERE'S PLENTY
TO NIBBLE ON
THIS ONE.



TOKYO.

CONSCIOUS
AGAIN? GOODY
GUMDROPS!

IF
MERLIN'S
GOING TO
TOKYO...

TLAK

SO
AM I!

SPRAAAM

YANAKA, TOKYO.

AN EMPTY SAFEHOUSE.

AND AN OLD COUCH, COVERED IN DUST
AND COBWEBS...AND DEAD SKIN CELLS.

CELLS NOW REINVIGORATED BY
A POWERFUL, ARCAN E FORCE.

THREE HOURS AFTER DEATH.

SIX HOURS AFTER DEATH.

NINE HOURS AFTER DEATH.

DEATH-MAN LIVES!

TOKYO INTERNATIONAL.

LEAVE A
MESSAGE AFTER
THE BEEP.

YOU'D BETTER
HAVE A GOOD REASON
FOR NOT PICKING UP
NEEDLEMEYER.

CAREFUL.
YOU'RE RUINING
THE AMBIENCE
IN HERE.

KIAMM

YOU SAID
THAT YOU MADE
MY MASTER LOOK
LIKE A FOOL.

HOW DO YOU
THINK YOU LOOK
RIGHT NOW,
WIZARD?

WAIT...NO,
PLEASE.

SURELY, WE
CAN COME TO
SOME SORT
OF....



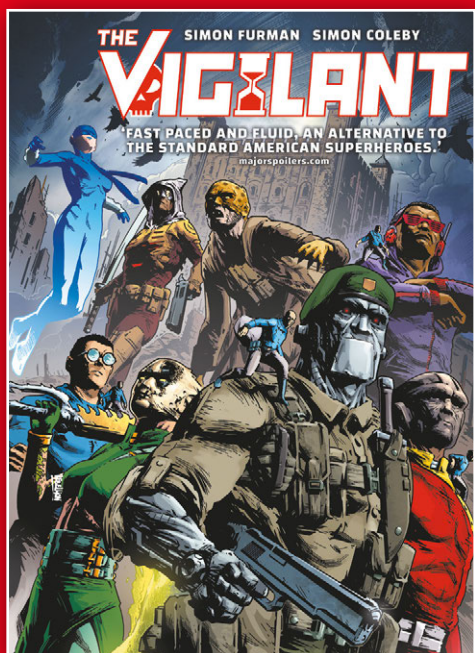
ARRANGEMENT.



END

'FAST PACED AND FLUID, AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE STANDARD AMERICAN SUPERHEROES.'

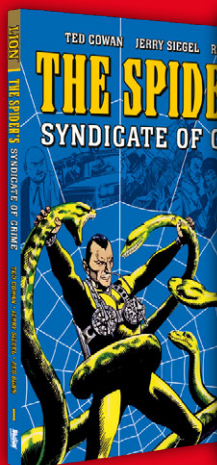
– majorspoilers.com



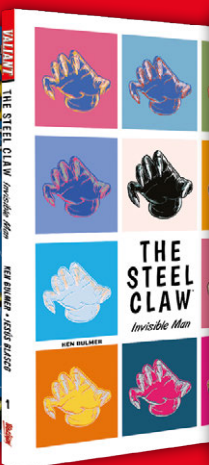
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