

SWORDS OF SORROW™

DYNAMITE.
VAMPIRELLA® &
JENNIFER BLOOD™

1
OF
FOUR

NANCY A. COLLINS
DAVE ACOSTA



SWORDS OF SORROW

VAMPIRELLA & JENNIFER BLOOD

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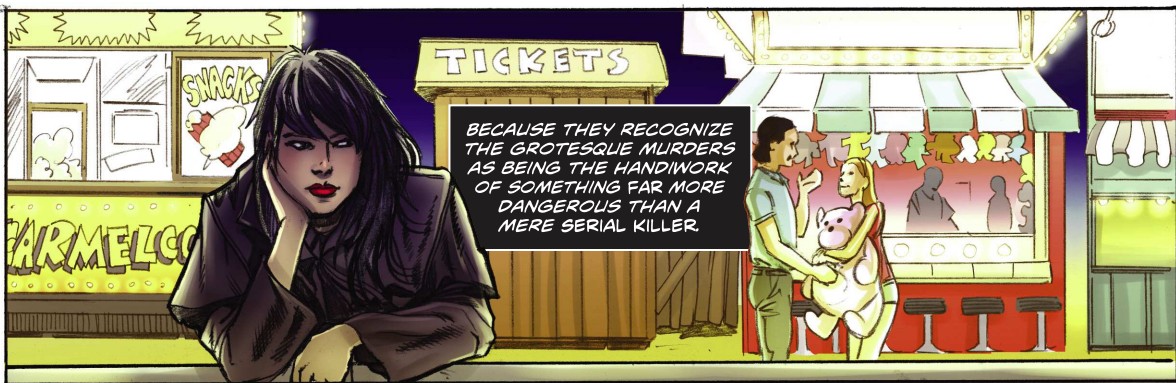
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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA:

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...

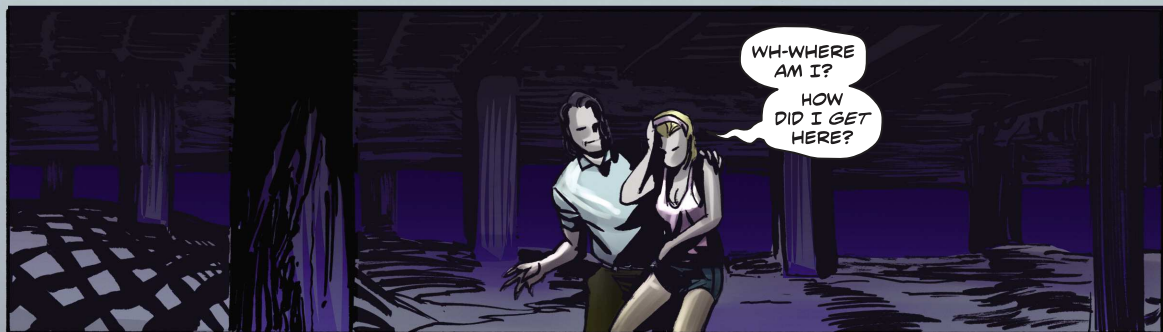


BECAUSE THEY RECOGNIZE
THE GROTESQUE MURDERS
AS BEING THE HANDIWORK
OF SOMETHING FAR MORE
DANGEROUS THAN A
MERE SERIAL KILLER.



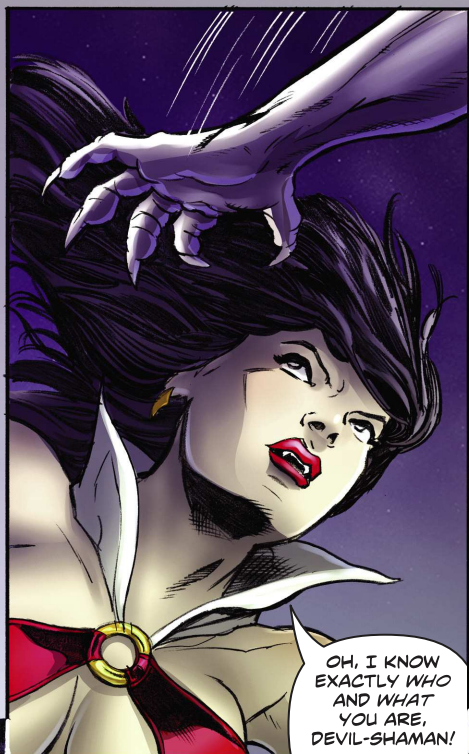
CRAP!
THIS ONE MOVES
FAST!

I ONLY
LOOKED
AWAY FOR A
SECOND--!





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!



AWWWW--
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!*

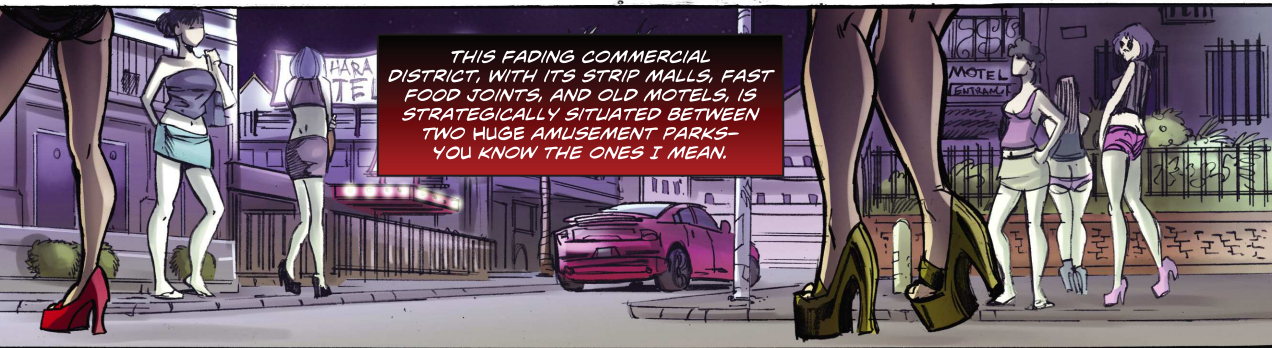
AWWWW-DON'T
BE LIKE THAT!
I WAS JUST
STARTING TO
HAVE FUN!

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.

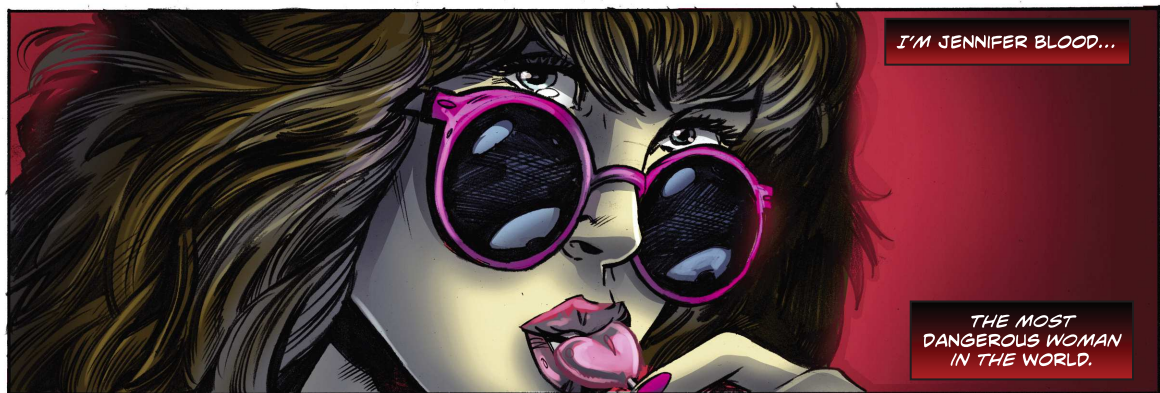


DURING THE DAY EVERYTHING SEEMS FAMILY FRIENDLY ENOUGH—BUT ONCE THE SUN SETS, THIS ONE-MILE STRETCH OF BOULEVARD BECOMES A MECCA FOR PROSTITUTES AND THEIR JOHNS.



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...

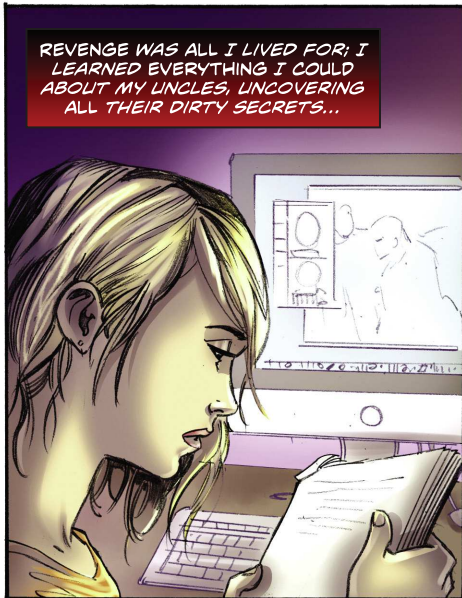
BUT HIS BROTHERS DIDN'T LIKE HOW HE WAS RUNNING THINGS—SO THEY DECIDED TO GET RID OF HIM BY MAKING IT LOOK LIKE A RIVAL GANG WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS DEATH.

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.



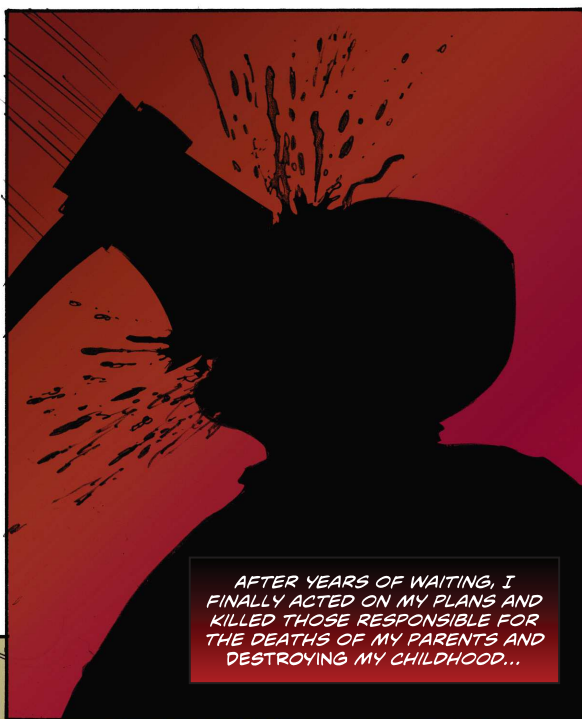
REVENGE WAS ALL I LIVED FOR; I
LEARNED EVERYTHING I COULD
ABOUT MY UNCLES, UNCOVERING
ALL THEIR DIRTY SECRETS...



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...



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-



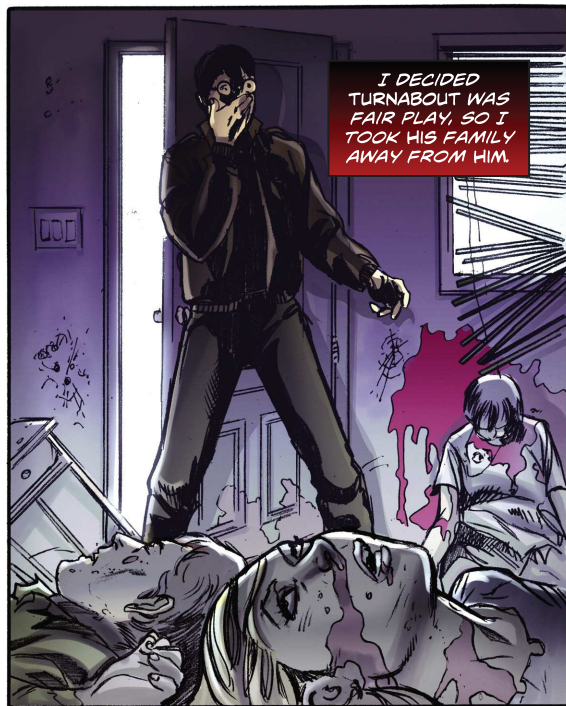
ALTHOUGH THAT SITUATION QUICKLY PROVED LESS THAN IDEAL AS WELL.



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



UNTIL A DISTANT COUSIN OF MINE STOLE THEM FROM ME.



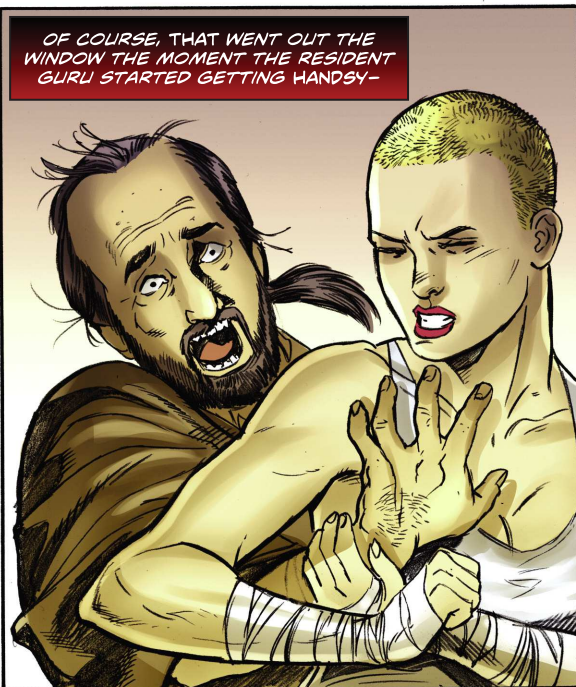
I DECIDED TURNABOUT WAS FAIR PLAY, SO I TOOK HIS FAMILY AWAY FROM HIM.



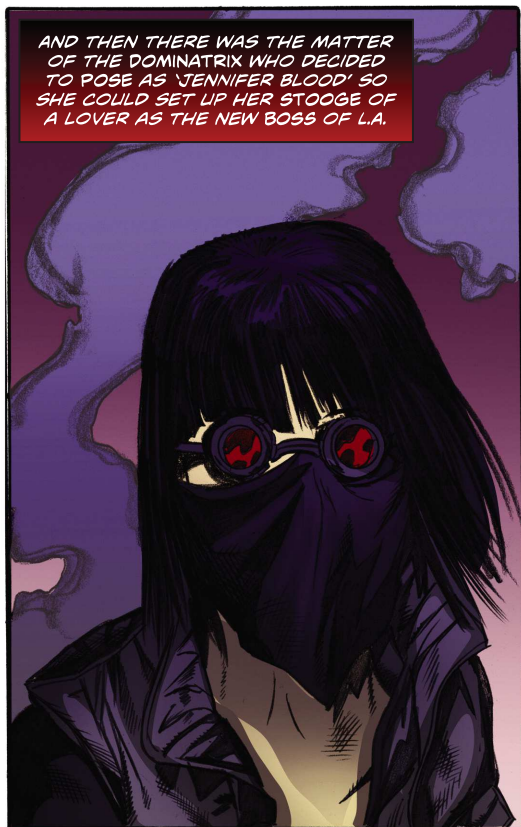
BUT AFTER ALL I HAD GONE THROUGH TO BE REUNITED WITH MY CHILDREN- I DISCOVERED THEY FEARED AND HATED ME FOR WHAT I HAD DONE TO THEIR FATHER- AND TO THEIR LIVES. THEY NEVER WANT TO SEE ME AGAIN.



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 OF A LOVER AS THE NEW BOSS OF L.A.



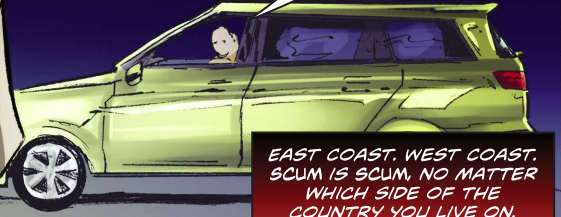
SINCE SHE WANTED TO BE ME SO BADLY, I ARRANGED FOR HER TO DIE IN MY STEAD. I HAVE SINCE TAKEN OVER HER IDENTITY AND MOVED INTO HER PLACE IN THE HOLLYWOOD HILLS.

PAYBACK'S A BITCH, AND SO AM I.

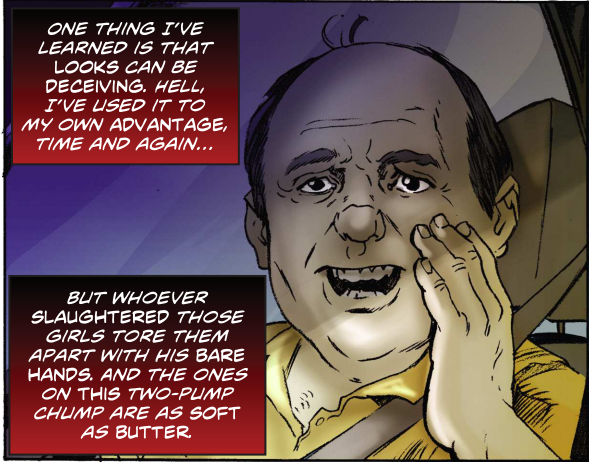


SINCE THEN, I'VE BEEN GETTING TO KNOW MY NEW KILLING GROUNDS.

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



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

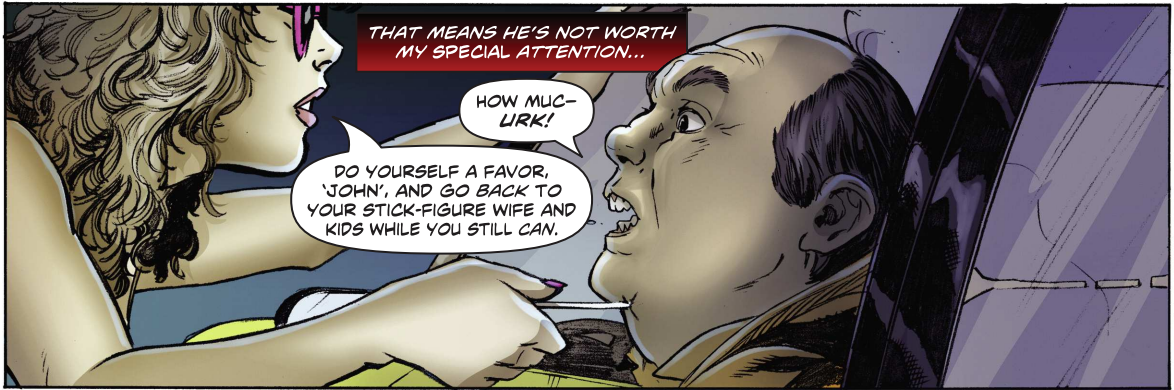


ONE THING I'VE LEARNED IS THAT LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING. HELL, I'VE USED IT TO MY OWN ADVANTAGE, TIME AND AGAIN...

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.



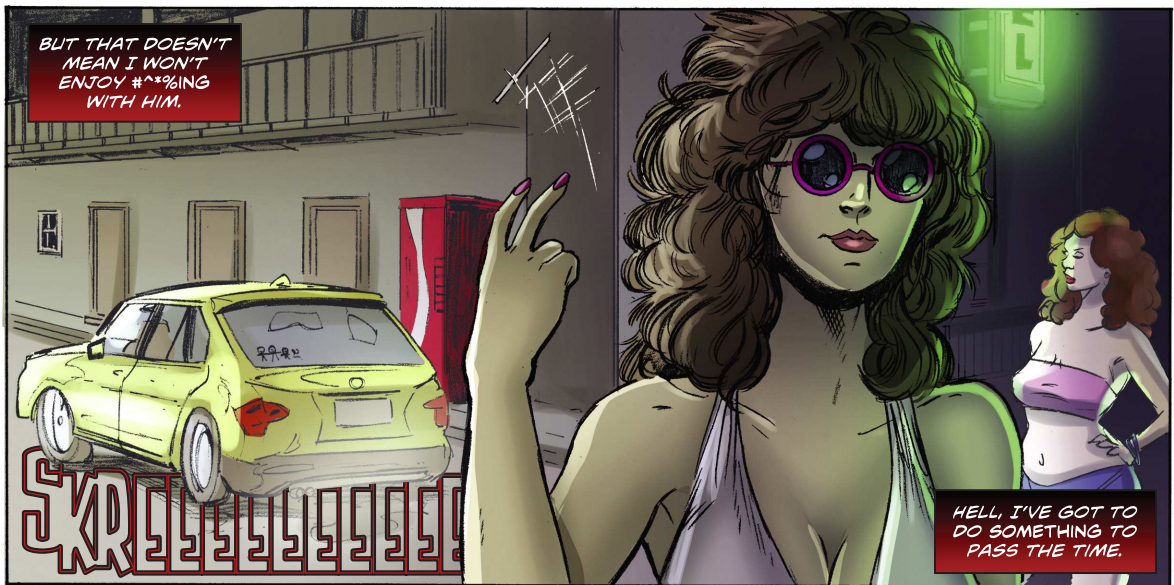
WHAT'S THE MATTER? DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME?



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

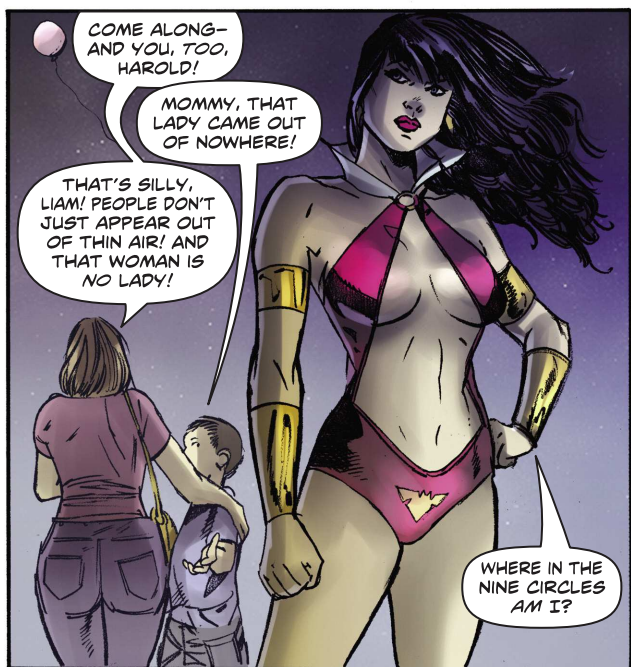
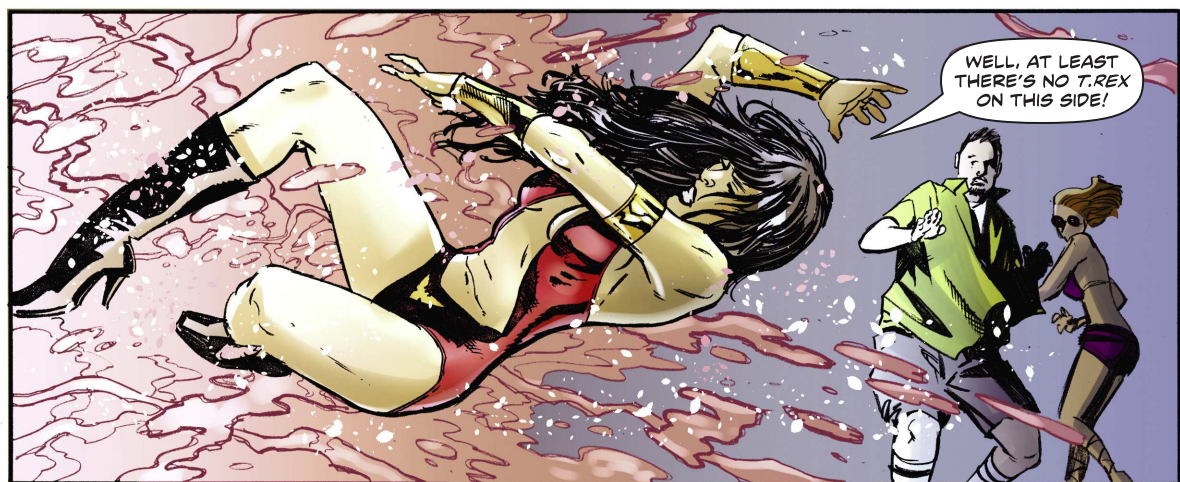
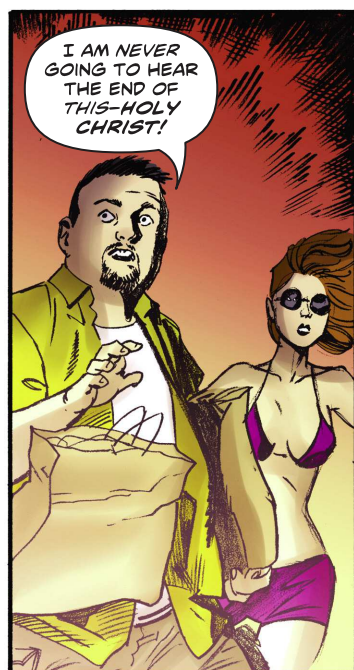
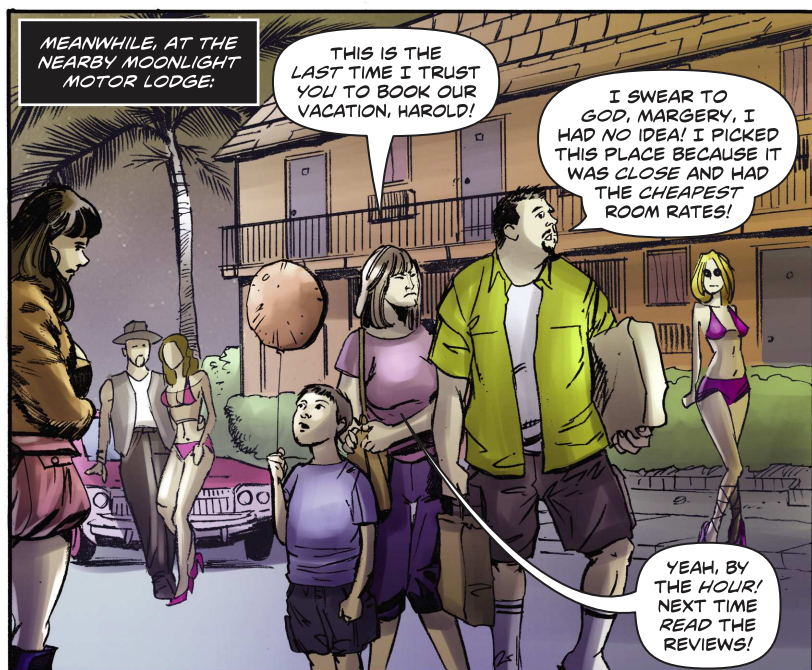
HOW MUC-LURK!

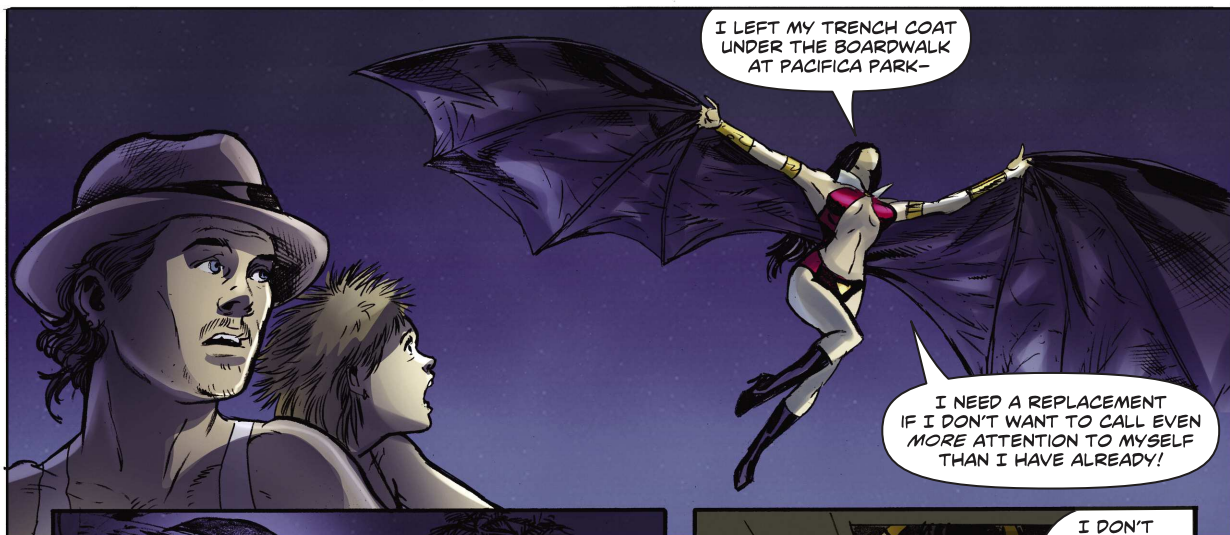
DO YOURSELF A FAVOR, 'JOHN', AND GO BACK TO YOUR STICK-FIGURE WIFE AND KIDS WHILE YOU STILL CAN.



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

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





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...

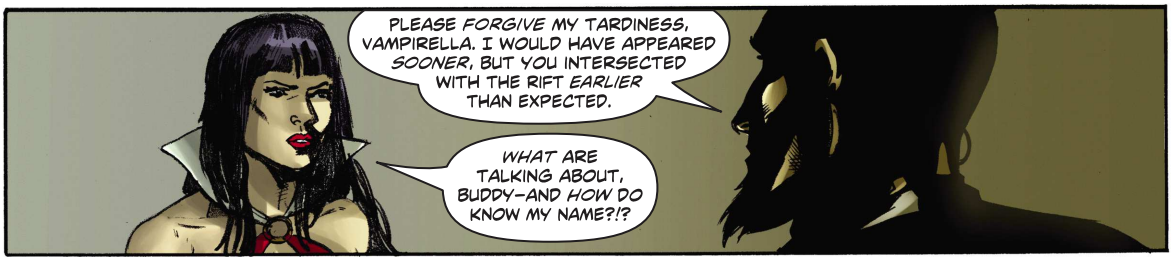


HMMM-
KIND OF RETRO
FOR ME-



I THINK IT
WILL SUIT YOU
QUITE WELL.

HUH--?!?



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 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!



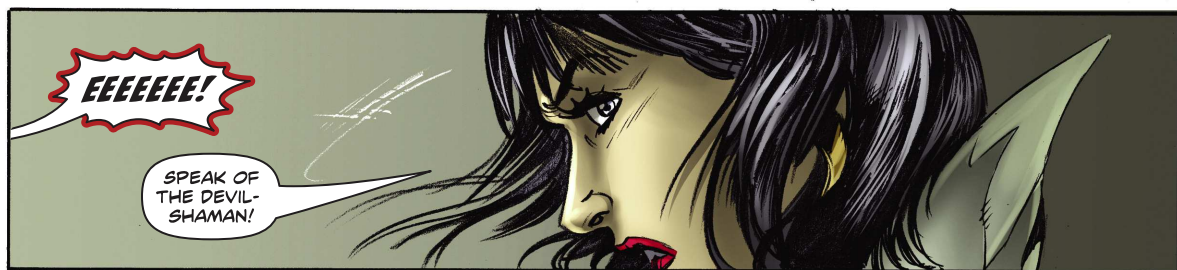
"THERE IS A GREAT DISTURBANCE AMONGST THE VARIOUS
REALITIES THAT FILL THIS IN A MULTITUDE OF
UNIVERSE, RESULTING WORLDS COLLIDING
AND MERGING INTO ONE."

"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!





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

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

URK!

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

AND HOW IS HE STILL ABLE TO KILL ME?



LET HER GO,
TAHQUITZ!



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.

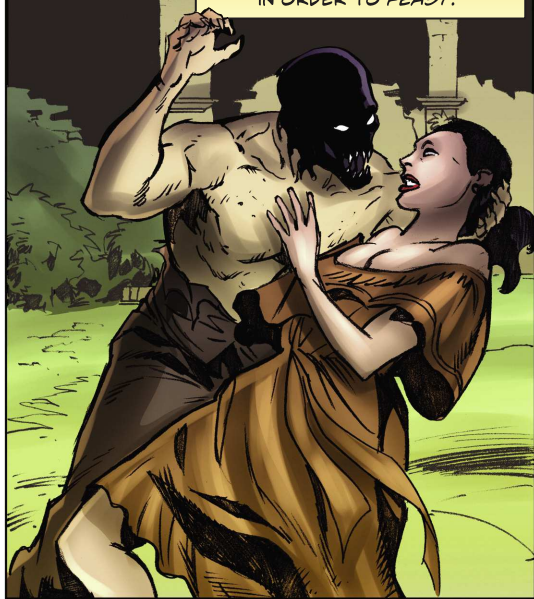
"IN THE END, HE BECAME POSSESSED BY AN EVIL SPIRIT, SIMILAR TO THE WENDIGO THAT PLAGUE THE ALGONQUIN PEOPLE OF THE GREAT LAKES..."

"TAHQUITZ 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."



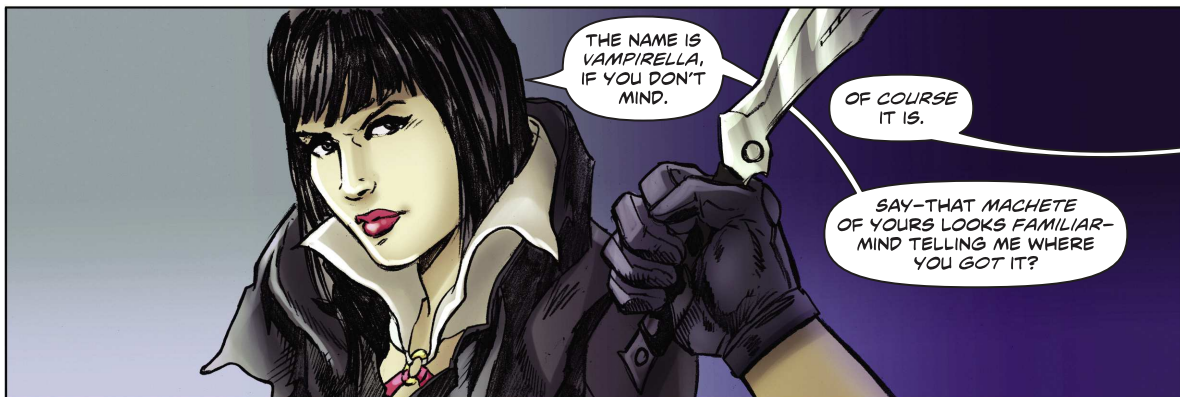
WOW, LADY, YOU'RE EVEN CRAZIER THAN YOUR TASTE IN CLOTHES!



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?





IT WAS A GIFT, KINDA-NOT THAT IT'S ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS.

MAY I LOOK AT IT--?

KEEP YOUR HANDS TO YOURSELF, LADY DRACULA!



I ASSURE YOU, DRACULA AND I HAVE NEVER BEEN MARRIED!

WEEED WEEED

HOLY \$#!%-- IT'S THE COPS!



PSYCHO!

NUT JOB!

BUT SHE DID SAVE MY LIFE. SO I'M GIVING HER A PASS. UNTIL NEXT TIME.



CAN YOU SEE THEM? DO THEY HAVE THE SWORDS?

AT LEAST ONE OF THEM DOES, MY PRINCE.

VERY GOOD...



YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO NEXT, MY PET.

TO BE CONTINUED

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